

JPRS-UMA-86-029

6 JUNE 1986

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS



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6 JUNE 1986

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

REVIEW: SOROKIN ON ARMED FORCES IN DEVELOPED SOCIALISM

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Mar 86 p 2

[Review by Col Gen S. Bobylev of book "Sovetskiye Vooruzhennyye Sily v usloviyakh razvitogo sotsializma" [The Soviet Armed Forces Under Conditions of Developed Socialism] under general editorship of Adm A. I. Sorokin, izd-vo "Nauka," 1985, 296 pages, under "New Books" rubric: "A Reliable Shield"]

[Text] The new wording of the CPSU Program adopted by the 27th party congress states that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union considers defense of the socialist homeland, strengthening of national defense and assurance of state security to be one of the most important functions of the Soviet state... The Armed Forces and state security organs must display high vigilance and always be ready to stop imperialism's intrigues against the USSR and its allies.

Of considerable interest in this connection is a study of current issues of the evolution and combat might of the USSR Armed Forces in accordance with the present military-political situation and with consideration of our country's economic, social-political, scientific-technical and spiritual capacities at the present stage, the achievements of all countries of the socialist community, and their comprehensive cooperation in the interests of the successful building and defense of a new society. Fundamental problems of Army and Navy development are revealed in a book which has been published, prepared by a group of authors of the USSR Ministry of Defense Institute of Military History. It gives a comprehensive description of the Leninist concept of a socialist army and shows its enrichment in documents of the CPSU and fraternal parties of countries of the socialist community, and in the works and statements of party, state and military figures. Emphasized in particular is the strictly defensive character of Soviet military doctrine. The book's authors focus attention on the significant expansion in the external function of the Soviet Armed Forces, which represent a reliable shield of the socialist Motherland. In addition, they take part in collective defense of the entire socialist community together with fraternal armies, give help to the peoples of liberated progressive states in a defense of their revolutionary achievements, hold imperialist aggression in check and assure the defense of peace throughout the world.

The views of bourgeois ideologists who falsify the social nature, purpose and social-political features of the Soviet Armed Forces are criticized in the book in a well-reasoned manner.

It is noteworthy that the book's authors analyze the deep-seated sources of the Army and Navy's combat might. They give primary attention to those new processes and phenomena which characterize the present state of Soviet society's economic, political and social-class systems. They demonstrate the beneficial effect of positive improvements on all components of the Soviet Armed Forces' combat potential. The Communist Party's management of military organizational development is the fundamental basis for strengthening the defense of the socialist Motherland. The new wording of the party Program notes that "the CPSU will bend every effort to see that the USSR Armed Forces are at a level which precludes the strategic superiority of imperialist forces, that the defensive capability of the Soviet state is improved comprehensively and that combat cooperation of armies of the fraternal socialist countries is strengthened."

The book performs a special analysis of current problems of strengthening the Soviet Armed Forces' combat might. A conclusion is drawn, with consideration of the status and prospects for development of the Soviet state's economic and scientific-technical potentials, about the Soviet state's ever-growing capability to outfit the Armed Forces with all modern types of weapons and combat equipment and henceforth reliably ensure a status of military-strategic parity between the USSR and United States.

The authors' creative approach is manifested in the statement of the question of the role of science in general, and military science above all, in strengthening the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces. The book shows the great importance for the growing might of the Army and Navy that lies in the understanding and use of general sociological laws and objective laws specific for socialism, as well as the laws of war and armed struggle and principles of military organizational development; in the study of the experience of wars in defense of socialism and the experience of conducting local wars; in the generalization and use of foremost experience of operational and combat training and of party-political work among the troops; and in the use of scientific achievements for developing and improving all structural elements of the Armed Forces' combat might.

The revelation of questions of strengthening the Armed Forces' combat might concludes logically in the book with an examination of the problem of assuring their high combat readiness. The authors emphasize that the complexity of missions being accomplished by the Armed Forces under conditions of the aggravated international situation, the qualitative transformations in means of waging warfare, and the sharp increase in the role of the factor of surprise require assurance of the personnel's high vigilance and that the combat readiness of Army and Navy forces is brought to the highest possible limits even in peacetime.

The book's consideration of the very current problem (one still insufficiently developed in the literature) of the place of the Soviet Armed Forces in the system of interstate military-political relationships is of some theoretical

and practical interest. The authors thoroughly reveal principles of the new socialist type of military-political relationships and the specific forms of cooperation in organizational development and training of the armed forces of fraternal socialist states. This cooperation develops, improves and becomes more effective with each year. The CPSU and the communist and working parties of other countries of the socialist community strive to ensure that the world socialist system is a close-knit family of peoples who together are building and defending a new society.

The book generalizes the international importance of the experience of the Soviet Armed Forces' organizational development and gives a description of what is most valuable and instructive in their organizational development that can be creatively used by the peoples, parties and states which have taken the path of social and national liberation. Organizational development of the Armed Forces integrally embodies all achievements and advantages of the new social system in the economic, scientific-technical, social-political and spiritual spheres. Despite false assertions of the USSR's enemies, this experience is not being imposed on anyone. At the same time, it is open to allies and friends. They use everything which helps them move forward more successfully with great interest, imagination, and consideration of historical, national and other features. The Soviet Union and its Armed Forces in turn carefully study and creatively use everything new and useful in other countries of socialism. Collective experience is our common valuable property.

It would appear that this book will be greeted with interest by the readers. It will be a good help in the work of indoctrinating young people in the grand combat traditions of the Soviet Armed Forces.

In my view, it appears advisable to continue research on a number of current problems which are of great importance for the daily work of commanders, political bodies, staffs and party organizations. We are speaking of a more profound, long-range substantiation of changes in the social-class and national composition of the Soviet Armed Forces, and a study of the experience of practical work among the troops for forming and making the multinational military collectives cohesive and strengthening conscious military discipline, efficiency and regulation order. There is a need for further study of the problem of the influence of positive processes now occurring in the country on the improvement and increase in the effectiveness of the entire system of personnel training and indoctrination.

6904

CSO: 1801/150

WARSAW PACT

WESTERN CLAIMS OF PACT SUPERIORITY DISPUTED

LD171911 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in German 2030 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Colonel Dmitriy Leonidon commentary, in Russian fading into superimposed German translation]

[Text] The prospect of renouncing their nuclear strategy in the event of the implementation of the gradual disarmament program proposed by the Soviet Union is clearly a headache for certain circles of NATO. This is shown by the emergence of suppositions and unfounded assertions that the Warsaw Pact would allegedly have a significant lead in armaments in the event of the liquidation of the nuclear weapon, and that West Europe would be subjected to danger allegedly on the part of the superior Soviet conventional armed forces.

What can be said about this? It is difficult to free oneself from the stereotype, which has been intentionally created for decades, of a Soviet military threat. The lying fairy tale about a superiority in conventional armaments among the socialist countries is based on a deliberately distorted picture of the balance of forces of the sides. The data on the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact are made too high for this purpose, and at the same time, the data about the NATO troops are reduced.

An objective evaluation of the balance in conventional forces produces a completely different picture. Above all, this pertains to the superiority of NATO in terms of combat-ready divisions. In Europe, NATO has at its disposal more than 94 combat-ready divisions, taking France and Spain into account. The Warsaw Pact has only 78 divisions. There are also differences. Thus, the number of deployed U.S. divisions amounts to 16-19,000, and the divisions of the FRG 24,000; while the divisions of the armies of the Warsaw Pact amounts to 11,000 men. [All figures as heard]

As a result, NATO has a significant advantage in combat-ready divisions, and in their strength in terms of numbers. The fact should also not be overlooked that the number of inhabitants in NATO countries is 1 and 1/2 times greater than in the Warsaw Pact, that is, 620 and 375 million people. This signifies a clear majority of NATO in terms of reserve factors also.

The NATO leadership completely disregards the mobilized and human resources and the reserve formations, and excludes from its calculations the armed forces of France and Spain and also the troops which are there under the national command.

Data on the balance of armaments are also distorted. Normally in the West only those tanks are counted which, for example are subordinate to the united command of the armed forces in Europe. This is it asserted that the united armed forces of NATO in Europe have about 18,000 tanks. In reality however, they have more than 20,000 tanks at their disposal. Apart from that, concentrated in depots in Europe there are about 2,500 U.S. and 6,000 tanks from West European countries. Thus, in terms of the overall number of tanks, NATO is not lagging behind the Warsaw Pact. The sides have roughly the same amount of artillery.

An approximate balance--on the whole, this describes the relationship in terms of conventional weapons, and this is affirmed by Western sources also. In the 1985 yearbook of a London institute, "The Military Balance," it is written that in terms of conventional arms, the balance between NATO and the Warsaw Pact is such that it would make a military attack a most risky undertaking, since neither side has at its disposal the overall strength to guarantee a victory.

In other words, the assertions about the lack of protection of Western Europe with regard to Soviet conventional weapons are unfounded. They also do not withstand criticism because the initiatives of the USSR provide for a reduction of conventional weapons also, as well as the strengthening of confidence-building measures in the military sphere.

/12232

CS0: 1826/56

WARSAW PACT

BRIEFS

GRIBKOV DISCUSSES CONGRESS IMPLICATIONS--A unified political day was held in the Headquarters of the Joint Armed Forces of Warsaw Pact Member States. CPSU Central Committee Member, Chief of Staff and First Deputy CIC of the Joint Armed Forces of Warsaw Pact Member States Army Gen A. Gribkov, a congress delegate, briefed generals, admirals and officers of fraternal armies on results of work by the 27th CPSU Congress. The briefer told about work by the forum of Soviet party members and about basic directions of the party's strategic course at the present stage. He shared his impressions from meetings with congress delegates and guests. After a viewing of documentary films devoted to this very important historic event there was an exchange of opinion on a wide range of practical matters stemming from congress resolutions and from statements made there by the heads of communist and working parties of fraternal countries. [By Capt 1st Rank V. Tokun.] [Text] [Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 86 p 2] 6904

1801/150

ARMED FORCES

AKHROMEYEV, ZAMYATIN, KORNIYENKO FEBRUARY NEWS CONFERENCE

LD012150 Moscow TASS in English 2143 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 1 March TASS--"The Soviet program for ensuring peace and security" is the subject of a news conference that was held in the Press Center of the 27th Congress of the CPSU on Friday. The speakers at the news conference were: Georgiy Korniyenko, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and first deputy minister of defense of the USSR, and Leonid Zamyatin, head of the International Information Department of the CPSU Central Committee.

Matters related to the foreign policy activities of the communist party and the Soviet state are dealt with in detail in the Political Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the congress, delivered by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, as well as during the discussion of the report, said Georgiy Korniyenko, first deputy USSR foreign minister. The cornerstone of these activities, is the provision made by V.I. Lenin and reiterated in the new edition of the CPSU program that the historical dispute between the two opposing systems into which the world is divided can and should be resolved by means of peaceful competition, and not by military means.

Accordingly, the chief aim of the foreign policy of the CPSU always was and remains to give the Soviet people the possibility to work in the conditions of lasting peace. However, it is not only the Soviet, but all other peoples as well, that need a lasting peace. Peace is an indispensable condition for social progress in general, and today it is even more than that—it is a matter of human survival.

Now that people have come to control means of self-destruction, the Soviet Union considers it a paramount task to stop material preparations for nuclear war, to turn around the arms race on earth and to prevent it from spreading into outer space. And to eliminate nuclear weapons totally and everywhere by the end of this century.

Regrettably, the response which came the other day from the American side to the nuclear disarmament program proposed by the Soviet Union can in no way be considered constructive, as was pointed out at the congress. Conversely, it shows that the U.S. leadership intends to continue spurring on the arms race on earth and spreading it into outer space in a bid to secure military superiority.

The continuous escalation of the level of armed confrontation is by no means a way to peace, as President Reagan claims. If the arms arsenals keep swelling, even parity ensures at best equal danger rather than equal security. In the age of nuclear missiles the genuine security of states is only possible as security for all.

Even in the past--in the prewar period and after the war--the Soviet Union gave preference to ideas of collective security but today, according to our profound conviction, it is not merely a preferential but the only possible way of ensuring lasting peace.

This explains why our party has raised the question of developing a comprehensive system of international security, the military, political, economic and humanitarian foundations of which are presented in the political report. These foundations could become a starting point and provide a framework for a direct and regular dialogue among the leaders of the countries of the world community, both bilateral and multilateral. The idea was also put forward in this context that the leaders of the five states, the permanent members of the Security Council, sit down to discuss what can be done to safeguard and strengthen peace.

President Reagan's reply to the Soviet proposals, as well as his address to the nation 2 days ago, which is in fact an addition to his reply, show that the United States is continuing the same course as before, a course that gives priority to military strength as the method of resolving outstanding issues, Leonid Zamyatin said at the press conference.

He said that the U.S. proposals are being studied with due account for the additional explanations given by the American delegation in Geneva. On the whole, Leonid Zamyatin said, comparing President Reagan's two latest statements, one can say already now that the U.S. response to the Soviet proposals is not constructive. It is lopsided, and, in fact, is turned in the opposite direction to the proposals advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev in his 15 January statement.

While declaring his commitment to the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, Reagan does not give a precise concrete programme for attaining this objective. On the contrary, he links it with numerous reservations, conditions and the possibility of resolving questions only from the position of strength. The American reply does not contain a solution to the fundamental issue of preventing the arms race in outer space. The American "star wars" programme is pronounced to be inviolable, and, therefore, restrictions on the development of strike space arms are not to be included in an agreement.

As to strategic nuclear armaments, the old American proposals are restated on which the Soviet Union has already commented. If such proposals were materialized, the United States would get a more than two-fold superiority in nuclear warheads. In that case, the USSR would have to dismantle the structure of its strategic nuclear forces and build them anew according to an American pattern.

On medium-range missiles, Leonid Zamyatin went on to say, we are offered the so-called zero option which the Soviet Union rejected earlier because it would

enable the United States to retain what it would like to retain in its armaments. Indeed, what is the difference between the new "zero option" and the previous "zero options" proposed by Reagan? The United States simply suggests now that it be protracted for a period of 3 years, but the essence is the same: to gain unilateral advantages. The United States officially stated its negative position to a nuclear weapon test ban, by implying that as long as nuclear weapons remain an element of deterrence, the United States should continue the tests. It is equally difficult to detect in the American reply at least a fraction of constructiveness on chemical weapons, just as on the Vienna talks and the Stockholm conference.

Besides, the question of security is arbitrarily linked to regional conflicts and some other questions that are in no way related to the problem of ending the race of armaments and eliminating nuclear weapons.

It is clear that if the United States insists on this stance, on such unacceptable proposals, this road will not lead to the search for compromise solutions. On the contrary, it will push the problem into an impasse from which it is hard to find a way out.

The U.S. response, noted First Deputy Minister of the USSR Georgiy Korniyenko, does not in the least advance the Geneva talks.

The chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR dismissed as "absurd" the figures cited by the U.S. president on 26 February about Soviet military spending. According to those figures, the Soviet Union in the past 15 years spent 50 percent of its budget on military needs.

This is absurd, he commented. No state can afford spending so much on military needs in peacetime. This is an unconscientious calculation and I don't know whose fault it was, the president's or his aides'.

The U.S. president claimed, Marshal Akhromeyev went on to say, that the Soviet Union has 5 times as many tanks and 11 times as many artillery pieces as the United States. This calculation is also unconscientious. When speaking about conventional arms, one should take the alignment of military forces between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty. And this alignment is utterly different from what the president claimed. As far as the number of divisions is concerned, the correlation is as follows: 94 for NATO and 78 for the Warsaw Treaty countries. Besides, the numerical strength of a division in NATO is significantly larger than that of one in a Warsaw Treaty country. And when speaking about the USSR and the United States, one should give consideration first of all to the correlation of forces in the field of strategic arms, where, and the Pentagon admits this, there is a rough balance. "Generally, we don't think that the president should engage in such calculations," Marshal Akhromeyev said. "For we could also say for our part that the United States has 15 aircraft-carriers, while we have none. [Quotations marks as received]

It should also be pointed out that 1,500 warplanes are deployed there, and about 800 of them can carry nuclear weapons. The strength of the U.S. Marines exceeds ours by 14 times.

As for the approach formulated by the U.S. president in his speech, this is an approach of power pressure, of a further arms race.

Despite the pressure exerted by public opinion, despite the appeals of statesmen from many countries, the United States has not given a positive answer to the appeal of the Soviet Union to join the moratorium on all the types of nuclear tests, said Leonid Zamyatin, head of the International Information Department of the CPSU Central Committee, answering the question of a Nigerian correspondent.

The Soviet Union has instituted a moratorium on nuclear weapons tests on more than one occasion. It was done on 6 August, last year, then on 15 January. The moratorium expires on 31 March. The Soviet Union spared no effort for making the U.S. realize that it was one of the real steps capable of holding up the modernization of nuclear weapons and setting the beginning of the nuclear disarmament process.

Despite all this, the U.S. president said that while nuclear weapons existed the United States was going to continue their improvement.

In these conditions the necessity arises for the Soviet side to consider the question: can we postpone unilaterally our measures while the U.S. nuclear weapons directed against us are being improved, even more so, since in a series of those tests some components of space weapons are being mastered, can we prolong our moratorium on nuclear tests indefinitely? We cannot disregard either our own security interests, or the security interests of our allies.

The Soviet side recognizes as an unshakeable principle the recognition of the security interests of all the states, the respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev said.

We urge to conclude an agreement on giving up the use of force or the threat of its use and regard as impermissible the actions of any state or a group of states aimed at attaining unilateral military advantages. It was reiterated from the rostrum of the 27th CPSU Congress that the wise attitude consisted not in taking care exclusively of oneself, especially at the expense of the other side, but in seeking equal security, Sergey Akhromeyev stressed.

The U.S. pursues a different line. The official doctrine of Washington is based on retaliation, on intimidation. This leads to the arms race and justifies a course towards military superiority. This doctrine undermines the security of states and actually turns the whole world into a nuclear hostage.

One cannot count exclusively on force, the way it is done by some people in the United States, Georgiy Korniyenko, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, said. This is why the striving to achieve success in the sphere of disarmament is the main direction of the Soviet foreign policy, which was vividly manifested in the materials of the 27th CPSU Congress.

The Soviet Union is ready for another Soviet-American summit meeting, which, as the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev said in

the political report, would be really oriented towards a practical solution of political problems, and would not be a mere protocol event, Leonid Zamyatin said. If this meeting can be used for developing the Geneva accords, for turning them into practical political agreements on major military and other international problems, we are ready for it at any time when the proper conditions are created.

In short, we favour a constructive meeting, Leonid Zamyatin stressed. This is what our stand consists in.

The Soviet Union stands for a collective search for a settlement in the Middle East, Georgiy Korniyenko. The latest developments in the region just illustrate the futility of separate deals, against which the Soviet Union has warned on more than one occasion.

Answering a question from a Kuwaiti correspondent, Korniyenko stressed that by its entire policy on the Middle East in general and on the Lebanese question in particular, the USSR had done everything it could, including at the United Nations, to ensure the prompt withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and also from other Arab lands. As for the tripartite agreement in Lebanon, Korniyenko said, we wholeheartedly wish an end to the civil war in that country, wish to see Lebanon a united, sovereign and territorially integral state. It is our conviction that it is entirely up to Lebanon itself to find practical ways to this goal.

The problem of medium-range missiles in the European zone, despite its complexity, is easier to resolve than the problem of medium-range missiles in the East, said Marshal Akhromeyev. It is easier because confronting each other in the European zone are medium-range systems of the USSR and the United States. Also positioned there are similar systems of Great Britain and France.

In the east, the question is more difficult. In the Pacific zone, the United States maintains up to seven aircraft-carriers. Roughly speaking, these are 350 nuclear weapon delivery vehicles with a range of up to 1,500 kilometres threatening Soviet territory. These are U.S. strategic aircraft deployed on Guam, these are American systems positioned in Japan, South Korea.

We hear nothing from the United States on this issue but the demand that this problem be handled simultaneously with the problem of the European zone, Marshal Akhromeyev said. We agree, but let us decide what to do with American systems deployed in the Far East. There is so far no response to that from the American side.

The question of the Soviet Union's recognition of the present government of the Philippines does not arise. The USSR maintained and maintains now relations with the Philippines as a state, said First Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR Georgiy Korniyenko.

The Soviet Union, he said, proceeds from the premise that the change of the government in that country is the business of its people. The USSR always sticks to the practice of establishing relations with a state, not with one or another government. And it is up to each people what government to have.

On Afghanistan, Marshal Akhromeyev said that outside interference in that country's internal affairs is expanding. Earlier on, foreign aid to counter-revolutionary Afghan gangs stood at hundreds of millions of dollars, while at present, it is estimated at billions. The United States and some other countries spend roughly 1.5 billion dollars on aid to Afghan counter-revolution. This money keeps operational about 150 gangs, and was used to set up numerous camps on Pakistani territory to train bandits who are then sent into Afghanistan. The Soviet Union already stated that if interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs ceases, if countries concerned adopt an official pledge on this account, and if guarantees are given on its non-resumption, the limited contingent of Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan.

The CPSU Central Committee's political report to the 27th Congress, added Georgiy Korniyenko, clearly defines our principled position in Afghanistan. It says that we have coordinated with the Afghan government a time-table for a withdrawal of Soviet troops, and gives reasons why this plan is not being set into motion.

As far as we know, talks on political settlement conducted between Pakistan and Afghanistan through the UN secretary-general's personal representative, have advanced rather far. But precisely at a time when the sides began moving towards the final stage of the talks, the hand of those who are hindering Pakistan's advancement towards a political settlement made itself felt.

/12232

CSO: 1812/102

ARMED FORCES

DECREE ON ALLOWANCES TO CHILDREN OF DRAFTEES

Moscow SOBRANIYE POSTANOVLENIY PRAVITELSTVA SOYUZA SOVETSKIKH
SOTSIALISTICHESKIKH RESPUBLIK in Russian No 6, 1986, Article 37 p 88

[Postanovleniye No 58 of the USSR Council of Ministers on Increasing Allowances for Children of First-Term Service Personnel, signed in the Kremlin, Moscow, on 9 January 1986 by N. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; and by M. Smirnyukov, administrator of the USSR Council of Ministers]

[Text] In accordance with the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers and AUCCTU Decree No 436 of 14 May 1985 "Priority Measures for Improving the Material Welfare of Pensioners and Families With Little Support and Strengthening Concern for Single Elderly Citizens" and in order to improve the material welfare of families of first-term service personnel with children, the USSR Council of Ministers resolves:

1. To increase allowances for the children of first-term privates, seamen, sergeants and petty officers to 35 rubles per month per child.

2. To make the following changes to USSR Council of Ministers Decree No 1108 of 25 October 1963 "Payment of Allowances for Children of First-Term Service Personnel" (SP SSSR, No 20, 1963, Article 198):

a. To word paragraph 1 as follows:

"1. To pay allowances of 35 rubles per month per child for children of first-term privates, seamen, sergeants and petty officers";

b. To replace the words "of the soviet of workers' deputies" in paragraph 2 with the words "of the soviet of people's deputies".

3. To make this decree effective on 1 January 1986.

6904

CSO: 1801/141

ARMED FORCES

DECREE ON HOUSING FOR VETERANS, FAMILIES

Moscow SOBRANIYE POSTANOVLENIY PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY SOVETSKOY FEDERATIVNOY SOTSIALISTICHESKOY RESPUBLIKI in Russian No 10, 1985, Article 47 p 152

[Postanovleniye No 108 of the RSFSR Council of Ministers on Measures for Further Improving Housing Conditions of Great Patriotic War Invalids and Families of Deceased Service Personnel, signed in Moscow on 14 March 1985 by V. Vorotnikov, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; and by I. Zarubin, administrator of the RSFSR Council of Ministers]

[Text] In fulfilling USSR Council of Ministers Decree No 208 of 5 March 1985 (SP SSSR, No 9, 1985, Article 39), the RSFSR Council of Ministers resolves:

To make it mandatory for RSFSR ministries and departments, councils of ministers of autonomous republics, and executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies to take steps to provide living space during 1985-1986 for Great Patriotic War invalids, families of deceased service personnel and persons equated to them under the established procedure who need an improvement in housing conditions and who are registered as of 1 January 1985.

6904

CSO: 1801/141

ARMED FORCES

27TH CPSU CONGRESS NOTES ARMY-NAVY DAY

Col Gen Popov Article

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 22 Feb 86 p 2

[Article by Col Gen N. Popov, commander of Red Banner Turkestan Military District: "Powerful Stronghold of Peace"]

[Text] The Soviet people and their Armed Forces are greeting the 27th Congress of the Leninist party in an atmosphere of tremendous political and labor enthusiasm. The nationwide discussion of the pregress documents inspired and inspires the Soviet servicemen toward new achievements in soldierly labor. Rallied around the Communist Party, together with the entire people they ardently approve and unanimously support its domestic and foreign policy. The men understand their missions well. "The Armed Forces," it is noted in the draft of the new wording of the CPSU Program, "should display high vigilance and always be ready to suppress imperialism's intrigues against the USSR and its allies and to defeat any aggressor."

The results of the accomplishment of pregress obligations by the subunits and units and the entire course of combat and political training show convincingly the steady improvement of the Soviet Army and Navy and the troops of the Turkestan Military District. They are accomplishing the missions assigned to them by the party and the people with honor and dignity. They are reliably guarding the creative labor of the Soviet people and the cause of October in a difficult international situation and are stepping forth as a mighty factor in restraining the aggressive aspirations of imperialism and strengthening the peace and security of peoples.

In the years of the Civil War the young army of the Soviet republic shattered the combined forces of internal counterrevolution and foreign intervention. A worthy contribution to victory was made by the workers of the Turkestan land and the men of the Turkestan front who marked the beginning of the combat chronicle of the troops of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District.

The Great Patriotic War became a severe test for the Soviet people and their Armed Forces.

The German fascist army was smashed in the grandiose battles at Moscow, Stalin-grad, Kursk, and other gigantic battles. The Soviet Army cleared its native land

of fascist scum and helped the peoples of Europe to throw off the yoke of fascism and saved world civilization from the brown plague. The crushing defeat of the Kwangtung Army and the capitulation of militarist Japan hastened the end of World War II.

All the peoples of the states of the anti-Hitler coalition made a large contribution to the attainment of victory. But the decisive role in the smashing of the enemy belongs to the Soviet Union and its Armed Forces. Our ideological enemies, the bourgeois falsifiers, will not succeed in belittling the contribution of the USSR to the defeat of the aggressor.

The Communist Party was the inspirer and organizer of the victory. It ensured the unity of the political, state, and military leadership of the army and the people and of the front and rear and became a truly fighting party.

The men of the army and the navy--representatives of all the country's nations and nationalities--displayed boundless devotion to the party and the people, love for the motherland, and mass heroism in the fierce battle with fascism. The war left us exciting documents about brotherhood in arms. A lofty patriotic spirit and the great strength of internationalism were manifested in the exploits of the frontline fighters. The brotherhood and friendship of the peoples withstood with honor the severe tests of war and were one of the sources of victory.

Along with the other peoples, and first of all with the great Russian people, the workers of Uzbekistan inscribed glorious pages in the chronicle of the great battle. They fought bravely with the enemy at the front and labored in a worthy manner in the rear. Uzbek soldiers Kudrat Suyunov, Tuychi Erdzhigitov, and Tashtemir Rustamov repeated the immortal exploit of Aleksandr Matrosov. For heroism displayed in battles with the fascists, more than 120,000 Uzbeks were awarded orders and medals and more than 300 men were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Large units and units organized and trained in the Turkestan Military District covered their battle standards with unfading glory. The divisions of Generals I. V. Panfilov, I. A. Kuzovkov, S. Rakhimov, and other Turkestanites which were organized in the district displayed examples of courage and steadfastness at the front.

Uzbekistan was not only the forge of military cadres, but also a mighty arsenal of the army, providing the front with many types of weapons and combat equipment. Operating on the territory of the republic were more than 280 new plants and factories which were put into operation during that difficult time of war. During the war years the workers of the village supplied the country with 4.8 million tons of cotton.

The victory of the Soviet people and their Armed Forces in the Great Patriotic War was an event of the greatest historic significance. It showed that there are no forces in the world which could destroy socialism.

Thanks to the wise policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state for more than 40 years already our people are living and working under peaceful conditions, building and improving socialist society, and struggling for peace and security of peoples. The creative labor and our plans for the future graphically demonstrate the peaceful nature of the Soviet people's goals and tasks.

Mankind's movement along the path of democracy and socialism, our successes in communist construction, and the high authority of our country in the international arena do not suit the most aggressive forces of imperialism, first of all in the United States. American politicians and the military-industrial complex are continuing the arms race and pushing the world toward nuclear war. They are speeding up the course for the attainment of superiority over the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries as a whole. Reliance is being placed on the technological superiority allegedly attained by the United States, which will permit it to create new types of weapons and, first of all, space weapons.

The actual military danger on our southern borders is increasing. American penetration into the countries of the Near and Middle East is intensifying. The forces of imperialism and reaction are continuing to wage an undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

In connection with imperialism's military threat, the Communist Party is doing everything to strengthen the country's defense and maintain the Soviet Armed Forces in the highest stage of combat readiness and combat capability. Our men are persistently mastering contemporary equipment and weapons, accomplishing their international duty and performing exploits in the name of the motherland which are worthy of the glory of their fathers and grandfathers.

The men of the Armed Forces are greeting their holiday with new achievements in combat and political training and the strengthening of military discipline and organization. Winter combat training is in full swing. Competition in honor of the 27th CPSU Congress is proceeding widely.

The men of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District are performing their patriotic duty in the single formation of armed defenders of the Soviet motherland in a selfless and conscientious manner. Under the difficult conditions of mountain-desert terrain, on the range and tank driving grounds, airfields, and missile positions they are sharpening their soldierly skill and combat readiness and tirelessly strengthening friendship with the workers of Uzbekistan and Turkmenia on whose territory they are performing military service.

The Turkestan servicemen are greeting the 68th anniversary of the Armed Forces with high successes in combat and political training. Examples are demonstrated by the initiators of socialist competition--the troop collectives headed by N. M. Loktev, V. A. Zenkov, and A. I. Kutkov. For exemplary soldierly duty a large number of the district's men were awarded orders and medals of the Soviet Union. Among the order-wearers are envoys of Uzbekistan Sergeants S. Abdullayev of Samarkand and U. Kurbanov of Yangiyul, Privates K. Artykov of Navoi, A. Zaynutdinov of Karshi, B. Zhomoldinov of Namangan, and others.

The workers of Uzbekistan and the republic's party and Soviet organs are making a significant contribution to the accomplishment of the missions facing the district. They are doing much for the military-patriotic indoctrination of the youth and its preparation for service in the army. In the course of mass-defense work month dedicated to the 68th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy the district's political organs and party and Komsomol organizations together with Soviet, trade union, and youth organizations of the republic are accomplishing a plan of combined measures directed toward the further initiation of military-patriotic work.

In solemnly marking the anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces, our people are sacredly preserving the memory of their sons who gave their lives for the freedom and independence of the motherland. Patriotic trips by the youth to places of combat glory, excursions to hero-cities, numerous memorials to military valor in the republic's populated places—all this is an inestimable contribution to military-patriotic indoctrination. Veterans of the war, army, and navy should be especially noted. It is important to consolidate the rich experience of heroic-patriotic indoctrination which was accumulated in the period of preparation for and celebration of the 40th anniversary of the victory. All this will contribute even further to the indoctrination of the youth in the heroic traditions of the Soviet people and their Armed Forces and to the formation of constant readiness to defend the motherland.

The Soviet Armed Forces have travelled a great historic path. In a single combat formation with the men of the Warsaw Pact member states, they are reliably defending the achievements of socialism. The exciting words of the battle slogan, "For our Soviet Motherland!" are blazing on the banners of the Armed Forces which are covered with glory. The Soviet people can be confident that their creative labor is under reliable protection.

Lt Gen Samoylenko Article

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 23 Feb 86 p 3

[Article by Lt Gen V. G. Samoylenko, member of Military Council, chief of Political Directorate, Red Banner Baltic Military District: "Guarding the Motherland"]

[Text] The Soviet people and the men of the valiant Soviet Armed Forces are marking the 68th anniversary of the birth of the Soviet Army and Navy on the eve of the opening of the 27th CPSU Congress. This coincidence is noteworthy and profoundly symbolic: the party created and nurtured our army and party leadership was and remains the very foundation of Soviet military organizational development and the decisive condition of our Armed Forces' might.

In turning to the past, we realize more and more deeply the majesty of the military victories which were won under the leadership of the Leninist party. In the terrible years of the Civil War and foreign military intervention, the young Red Army displayed a high revolutionary spirit and mass heroism and valor. They shattered the hordes of interventionists and White Guardists who were armed to the teeth. The party's best sons fought in the front ranks for Soviet power and were examples of courage, valor, and discipline. By the end of the Civil War there were more than 300,000 communists in the army—almost half of the party's total composition.

The unfading exploit of the Soviet people and their Armed Forces in the years of the Great Patriotic War became a mighty manifestation of socialism's strength and our social and state system. This was the most difficult and cruel of all wars. The peoples of the multinational Soviet Union rose as one for the holy battle against fascism. The Communist Party initiated titanic military-organizational and ideological-political work in the mobilization of all forces for the defeat of the enemy. The CPSU was a fighting, battling party. Communists

cemented the ranks of the motherland's defenders and instilled in the hearts of the men a confidence in the victory of our righteous cause.

The enemy's shock groupings were smashed at Moscow and Stalingrad, in the North Caucasus and the Ukraine, in Belorussia and in the Baltic. The destruction of the main forces of fascist Germany on the Soviet-German front brought the Hitlerite war and state machine to complete collapse. More than 11,600 men, representatives of 62 nations and nationalities, became Heroes of the Soviet Union in the war years and more than seven million defenders of the motherland were awarded orders and medals of the USSR.

The Latvian people also made their contribution to the common cause of the defeat of the fascist aggressors. Latvians fought with selfless bravery on all fronts, in partisan detachments, and in the underground and labored selflessly in the rear. State decorations were awarded to 17,000 men of the Latvian Rifle Corps and 28 sons of the Latvian people became Heroes of the Soviet Union.

The results of the Great Patriotic War are a hard and just lesson of history and a stern warning to the lovers of military adventures and all those who are trying to speak with us from a position of strength.

We have been living beneath a peaceful sky for more than 40 years already. During the postwar decades our country increased its economic potential many-fold and the material and cultural standard of living of the Soviet people increased immeasurably.

However, the party and the people are accomplishing creative tasks under conditions of a difficult international situation. Imperialism's reactionary circles, and first of all those of American imperialism, are not abandoning attempts to attain military superiority over the USSR at any price. They are heating up the arms race, building up their nuclear missile potential, and creating space strike weapons.

True to the Leninist principles of foreign policy, the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government are waging a truly titanic struggle against the nuclear threat and to bridle the arms race. New confirmation of the USSR's peace-loving aspirations was the Declaration of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, M. S. Gorbachev, of 15 January of this year. A plan for the stage by stage elimination of the most destructive weapons of war which create a deadly threat to life itself on Earth and which can be practicably accomplished in an historically brief time--during the next 15 years--was unfolded before mankind for the first time.

In conducting a constructive and firm policy of peace, the CPSU and the Soviet government are adopting all necessary measures to strengthen the country's defensive capability and increase the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces. "...While the danger of imperialism's initiation of aggression, military conflicts, and provocations of various types exists," it says in the CPSU Program, "it is necessary to devote unremitting attention to reinforcing the defensive might of the USSR and strengthening its security."

Today, the Soviet servicemen are equipped with the most complex combat machines, missile complexes and electronic systems, supersonic airplanes, and other contemporary equipment. They are controlled by reliable hands. The results of the pregress socialist competition show that the Armed Forces personnel, including the Baltic servicemen, are capable of accomplishing the most difficult missions in the defense of the Soviet motherland and the great achievements of socialism. They are doing everything for the combat potential of the Armed Forces, which are a strong alloying of military skill, ideological steadfastness, organization, and discipline, to be even stronger.

The men of the district are preserving and multiplying the combat traditions which they inherited from the older generations. They are proud that 15 Heroes of the Soviet Union who covered themselves with unfading glory in the years of past battles are entered eternally in the rosters of the district's subunits. Among them are Guards Private Aleksandr Matrosov who accomplished his immortal exploit on 23 February 1943 near the village of Chernushka, closing the embrasure of an enemy permanent pillbox with his body, and Guards Private Yuriy Smirnov who remained true to the military oath to the end. The lofty spiritual heritage of the men of the 1980's are the glorious exploits of the true knights of the revolution --the Latvian Red Marksmen, units, and large units which liberated the Soviet Baltic in the years of the Great Patriotic War. Their soldierly deeds are widely presented in the Museum of History of the Troops of the Red Banner Baltic Military District which is also willingly visited by the workers of the republic and the youth.

There is always a place for an exploit in life. These words of the great Russian writer Maksim Gorkiy were often confirmed in the course of tactical lessons, exercises, live firings, missile launches, and flights. Each time, when this is required by the interests of the country's security and the defense of peace and when assistance to the victims of aggression is needed, the Soviet serviceman appears before the world as an unselfish and courageous patriot and internationalist.

...Officer P. Zemelis, a wearer of two Orders of the Red Star, serves in one of the military commissariats of the Latvian SSR. When he meets with the pre-draft youth and tells the youths about their forthcoming service in the army and about the difficulties which await the future soldiers, his words sound significant and convincing: the officer served as a member of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and rendered assistance to the friendly people in the defense of the achievements of the April revolution.

...Guards Senior Lieutenant I. Korobchan, who was decorated with the medal "For Valor" for courage and high soldierly skill in the accomplishment of his international duty, is well known in the Guards Training Motorized Rifle Sevastopol Red Banner Regiment imeni the Latvian Marksmen. Now he generously transmits his experience to the young guardsmen. On each lesson he creates a situation which is as close as possible to the conditions of actual combat and trains men who are tempered ideologically-politically and morally-psychologically.

The heat of combat and political training among the troops of the district is high in the pregress days. In preparing to greet the regular forum of the communists of the country of Soviets in a worthy manner the Baltic servicemen, among whom are many representatives of Soviet Latvia, are learning military affairs in

a genuine manner, persistently raising combat readiness, and strengthening discipline, organization, and order in every possible way. Good fame was won in the troop collectives by the commander of an excellent artillery platoon, Senior Warrant Officer [praporshchik] G. Putans, missileman Junior Sergeant A. Blyusins, combat-vehicle driver Private E. Linarts, signalman Sergeant A. Vetsverdinsh, soldiers of air defense subunits Junior Sergeant M. Logins and Private A. Zarinsh, and many others.

The communists and Komsomols are marching in the vanguard of the men's combat formation. The best of the best Komsomol members earned the honored right to sign the Report of the Leninist Komsomol to the 27th CPSU Congress.

The strength of our army is in the blood tie with the people. Many-faceted work is being conducted in the republic on the military-patriotic indoctrination of the population, especially the youth. Each year hundreds and thousands of Komsomols and youths participate in the all-union trip to places of revolutionary, combat, and labor glory. The work of the DOSAAF organizations is being improved.

Universities and clubs of the future serviceman, lecture bureaus, and clubs of the future officer have been created in the rayons of Latvia. The military sports games "Orlenok" and "Zarnitsa" have won great popularity among the school-children. Patron ties between the labor and troop collectives are being strengthened.

Important work is being conducted by veterans of the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars, and the district's commanders and political officers. In the course of the all-union mass defense work month which has been completed in the republic many thematic soirees and morning sessions, lessons of courage, meetings with veterans, and various sports competitions have been conducted. All this graphically confirms once again the love of the people for their creation--the army--and their monolithic unity and it demonstrates the loyalty of the rising generation to revolutionary, combat, and labor traditions.

The Soviet servicemen, raised in a spirit of boundless devotion to the Communist Party, the socialist motherland, and their people are greeting the 27th CPSU Congress with significant achievements in combat and political training and socialist competition. In the common combat formation with the men of the armies of the Warsaw Pact member states, they are maintaining high vigilance and are always ready to accomplish their patriotic and international duty with honor.

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CSO: 1801/157

ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Mountain Training Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 86 p 2

[Letter to editor from Maj V. Kryukov, Red Banner Central Asian Military District: "Learning to Fight in Mountains"]

[Text] The battalion which I now command is located by the snow-white Tyan Shan mountain range. When I learned back at the academy that I was being stationed here in the Central Asian Military District, I thought to myself that it would not be easy to get comfortable in the new location. I had never yet served in a mountainous area, after all. When I learned from the chief of the district personnel directorate that I was to take over a motorized rifle battalion in whose combat training mountain training occupied an important place, I even felt somewhat uneasy. I later felt better, to be sure, after deciding that my service in the new position would be preceded by special training, during which experienced instructors would help me to rapidly acclimate myself and acquire solid methodological skills in directing the subunit and taking advantage of the equipment's fire and structural capabilities in mountain conditions. Unfortunately, however, I did not receive any recommendations.

Enroute to the battalion I pondered, not without concern, what I should do. Where should I begin? To whom should I turn for help?

These were not easy questions, when one considers the fact that as the commander I would be teaching subordinates, although I myself had only theoretical knowledge with respect to mountain training.

Most of my fears proved unjustified, however. In the first place, the conditions under which mountain training questions are worked out here proved to be quite different from what I had imagined. I was concerned about whether I would be able to rapidly adapt to the high mountain conditions, for example, but that was not even necessary. The battalion engages in combat training at an altitude of only 2,000-3,000 meters above sea level on relatively level terrain, actually on a conventional training field equipped in the traditional manner.

You will agree that there was reason to be surprised. I recalled lines from Marshal of the Soviet Union I.S. Konev's memoirs. "...The mountain warfare experience clearly showed," the renowned military leader wrote, "that the training of the troops must take into account the specific features of a mountain theater. They must be provided with mountain gear, light-weight combat equipment and mountain equipment, particularly means of transport, artillery tractors and trails." Has anything changed since then? Have the problems involved in conducting combat in mountains become less urgent or important? No, more to the contrary.

I have discussed this more than once with officers with combat experience. I have had lively discussions on this subject with Captain I. Zaporozhan, Hero of the Soviet Union, with whom I serve, for example. We agree on one thing: the simplifications, approximations and unconformities which we have to accept in this matter could ultimately result in serious gaps in the men's training, in irreplaceable losses in a combat situation.

And these simplifications are apparent even to the naked eye, so to speak. For example, it turned out that I was not the only one who was unfamiliar with real high-mountain conditions. Most of the battalion officers were in the same position. None of them had gone higher than 3,000 meters (and even then they used roads). We had only a very approximate idea of mountain sickness and of the changes which occur in the functioning of the equipment and weapons at high altitudes.

We use various specialized classrooms for training battalion personnel. But drilling on the terrain is the most important thing. Our companies do not go into the mountains, however. Our combat training plans do not include training trips to undeveloped areas. Some people refer to the fact that the fightingmen do not have basic Alpine skills. But this is precisely why they lack such skills. The Great Patriotic War experience taught us--and Marshal of the Soviet Union I.S. Konev was not the only one who wrote about this--that we must be familiar with the mountains and be able to subdue them. And this cannot be learned in a day.

It is my understanding that subunits designated to perform missions in mountains must be manned not randomly, but with specially selected cadres, and must train according to a special program. Unfortunately, neither of these things is being done yet. Nor does the subunit or even the unit have methodical aids or detailed plans for organizing training in the mountains. I hoped to find such literature in the library at the district officers' club. Once again, I was unsuccessful.

I do not want to be misunderstood. Officers with the district combat training directorate are attempting to organize the mountain training. Assemblies are conducted in the district from time to time for the instructors, and special subjects are included in the commander training plans. This is not enough, however. We need to prepare fightingmen capable of operating successfully in mountains in one of the district training subunits and then refine their skills in battalions such as ours. Since the mountains are right next to us, who, if not we, should engage in serious mountain training?

I understand that it will not be easy to effect a reorganization in this complex matter. But nonetheless, we need to discuss this in the newspaper, to reveal reserves and hear the opinion of competent specialists.

Alcohol Abuse

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jan 86 p 2

[Text] "Prolonged Merrymaking"

The above was the title of a critical report from Colonel P. Chernenko published on 11 December 1985. It spoke of an unhealthy moral climate and cases of drunkenness in one of the air units.

Colonel V. Shcherbinin has reported to the editors that the newspaper article was discussed at a party meeting and a conference of officers and warrant officers, and that steps have been outlined for eliminating the deficiencies. For being drunk while on duty, Major V. Krasikov has been expelled from the CPSU and Captain V. Bokarev has been issued a stern reprimand, which has been entered into his record. Both officers have been recommended for release from the positions they hold. Lieutenant Colonel A. Bartulev has been severely admonished for poor organizational, political and indoctrinational work.

The command element and the political section are providing the airmen with practical assistance in the strengthening of discipline, organization and firm regulation order in the subunits.

Abuses by Commandant's Office

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Jan 86 p 2

[Text] "We'll Get to the Bottom of it at the Commandant's Office..."

The above was the title of an article published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 4 December 1985. Lieutenant General V. Semenov, Chief of Staff of the Odessa Military District, reported to the editors that the newspaper article was discussed at a conference of command and political staff and at assemblies of military commandants. The district commander has sternly admonished the chief of garrison "X" for gross violations of regulations by workers in the commandant's office when arresting servicemen. Senior Lieutenant V. Pavlenko, chief of the garrison guardroom, has been severely disciplined for exceeding his authority and for rudeness toward servicemen. The district staff is investigating the state of the service and the observance of regulations by the workers of garrison commandant's offices and is taking other steps to establish order.

Motor Transport Workers Punished

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Jan 86 p 2

[Text] "Dump Trucks in the Driveways"

The above was the title of a report from Lieutenant Colonel N. Fedoseyev published on 31 October 1985. Major General G. Klimentov has reported to the editors that the newspaper article was discussed at a service conference of garrison commanders and political workers. Stern steps have been taken toward those guilty of infractions: Officer G. Shubenkov has been demoted for service deficiencies; Officers V. Kutsan and I. Dyatlov have been given disciplinary penalties; and unauthorized expenditures have been recovered from Soviet Army employee T. Katernyuk.

Appropriate explanatory and indoctrinational work has been performed with the drivers and vehicle commanders. Those in charge of the garrison VAI [military motor vehicle inspection service] have been instructed to make more frequent checks on the use of the service motor transport.

Promotion Notification Mix-Up

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jan 86 p 2

[Follow-up on letter by Lt Col V. Zhitarenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Order of Lenin Moscow Military District: "An Error"]

[Text] A year and a half ago Captain N. Zhumaleyev left the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany for another assignment in one of the units of the Moscow Military District. Upon parting, the captain's chiefs assured him that the recommendation for his promotion to the next military rank had already been forwarded to the proper personnel office.

And now, months later, he was forced to appeal to the editors: "Help me determine my military rank...."

Zhumaleyev has been wearing the major's epaulets on his shoulders since November of last year, to be sure. At a conference of officers and warrant officers in November of last year the unit commander announced that Zhumaleyev was being promoted to major, and he mentioned someone's oral notification. Words alone cannot be placed into one's personal file, however, nor are they a basis for the finance service chief to issue the extra pay and allowances. The worst thing is that for some time now Zhumaleyev's co-workers have begun looking askance at Zhumaleyev's major's shoulder-boards. The cause of this was a ominous question by Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Taruntayev, a division staff officer: "Why are you taking such license, Zhumaleyev? After all, we still do not have a copy of the order awarding you the rank of major." It was later found that Zhumaleyev had not donned the major's shoulder-boards on his own. But talk about the "self-styled major" spread throughout the military post.

What was to be done? Wait for that ill-fated copy of the order, of course. The main thing was to continue serving, however, to work without letup.

The latter depended upon Nigmatzhan Kaparovich himself, and he was accustomed to serve and work in precisely this way. His former subordinates were distinguished by their profound knowledge, skills and discipline, and the same was true here. He was accustomed not to count the effort and time he spent.

Both in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and in the present unit, precisely these qualities permitted him to perform as one of the most knowledgeable, enterprising and competent specialists in the regiment. He therefore enjoyed the respect of his co-workers. We can frankly say that they sympathized with him. Many of them could not recall a similar occurrence during their entire service. Six months passed, a year flew by, but the copy of the aforementioned order had not arrived.

Last spring Zhumaleyev knew that it was pointless to wait. During the questioning about complaints and requests at the regular inspection parade, he told the senior chief about his problem. He was given assurances that higher headquarters would investigate. Fall came, however, and then winter, and the investigation went on and on.

At division headquarters and in the regiment I was shown four requests for confirmation of officer Zhumaleyev's promotion. Two of them had gone to the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, two to the personnel directorate of the Moscow Military District. Once again, something inexplicable happened. Only one request reached each of the destinations. The others got lost somewhere. In addition, an error was made at the headquarters of the division in which Zhumaleyev now serves: they sent the request to the unit in which the officer had served prior to being transferred to the major's position. Naturally, the reply from there was: Where would a major's rank come in, when the officer occupied a captain's position here?

In the personnel directorate of the Moscow Military District, Major A. Polynka, who was ordered to look into the request from the division, simply put the paper aside and... forgot about it.

When I investigated the twists and turns of the case, certain people attempted to place the blame on Zhumaleyev himself for what had happened. Had he been more persistent, they said, and gone once more to see a certain chief or officer in the personnel office, they would have thought of some way to help the man. It was a complicated matter....

"Enough of that," I would like to say to the comrades. What requires so much thinking? What are the difficulties? From the office of that very Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Taruntayev, who signed the requests in the unit, in his presence, the author of this article was in contact by telephone for 1 minute with Colonel A. Khanin, deputy chief of the district personnel directorate. I explained the situation to him and asked him to clarify what officer Zhumaleyev could consider his rank to be. I soon received a reply: Zhumaleyev had been a major since 24 August 1984.

It would seem that neither Taruntayev nor Major Zhumaleyev's other chiefs could be accused of completely ignoring the matter. They could refer to those four requests as proof that they did something. Why did they not see the individual beyond the paper, however? Why did no one seriously try to get to the facts?

Were they waiting for Zhumaleyev to begin camping on their doorsteps? Nigmatzhan Kaparovich is a modest and shy person. He has the right to believe

that every official vested with certain authority and charged with certain duties will conscientiously do his assigned job without being reminded. This is what Zhumaleyev thought. But what actually happened?

When the personnel directorate of the Moscow Military District received the copy of the order awarding the rank to Zhumaleyev, Lieutenant Colonel A. Suetin penciled on it: "Comrade Mironov." The document then came to Lieutenant Colonel A. Sevastyanov. He appended additional instructions: "Comrade Guskov." Guskov then wrote: "Comrade Polyka"....

What should Mironov, Sevastyanov, Guskov and Polyka have done? Colonel M. Antyshev, who has served in personnel departments for 20 years, explained that simple, elementary action was required: the number and date of the order awarding the officer the rank, taken from the copy, should have been entered on the three documents kept in the personnel directorate, and the copy itself should have been sent to Zhumaleyev's unit. Slipshod performance, however--or more simply stated, negligence in the work--resulted in the copy's not being sent to the unit.

"Who more than we officers in the personnel departments," the senior chief said when he learned about all of this, "should be particularly meticulous and considerate? After all, a person's fate is tied to every document which passes through our hands, sometimes even to every word.

This is all true, but errors are still being made. Once one has been made, however, everything possible should be done to rectify it immediately. It is much more difficult to do so later, after all. Sometimes, 20 or 30 years later, after an officer has retired, it is found that an incorrect date has been entered for his appointment to a position or his promotion in rank. The situation is difficult to resolve. And all because an unconscientious, unconcerned individual was working in the personnel department back then.

This case was assessed from a standpoint of principle in the district personnel directorate. By order of Major General V. Volkov, Major A. Polyka was admonished for not properly performing his duties, and other directorate workers involved to one degree or another in Zhumaleyev's "story" have been punished.

This case should serve as a lesson also for other individuals who are careless in the performance of their service duty.

Aviation Fuel Waste

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] "The Economics of the Flight Shift"

The above was the title of an article by Colonel G. Ivanov published in the 12 October 1985 issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. It was about problems in struggling for conservation and thrift during flights in the air units and about cases of unjustified fuel losses.

Major General of Aviation V. Ulezko, member of the Military Council and Chief of the Political Section of the Air Forces of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District, has reported to the editors that the questions raised in the article are valid, that the criticism was acknowledged to be correct. All of the criticisms have been thoroughly analyzed in the party organizations of the air units and discussed in people's control groups.

Unfortunately, the response did not indicate what specific steps are being taken to correct the deficiencies.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Mailbag

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] The editors received 28,078 letters from readers in January, 599 of which were published in the newspaper. There were 739 responses to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA articles.

January, the first month of 1986, designated International Year of Peace by the UN, is past. The January editors' mailbag was distinguished by letters in which the readers unanimously voiced their support for the Statement by CPSU CC General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev, who put forth a set of important new foreign policy initiatives. The Soviet people and fightingmen of the Armed Forces regard it as a landmark document in the struggle by the Lenin Party and the Soviet State for lasting and universal peace, as a program for the real, complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons in this century.

"A turn for the better is needed, is simply essential, in the international arena," Lieutenant Colonel V. Potapko writes in the name of three generations of his family from the Keiv Military District. "It is expected, is demanded by the peoples of our nation and the people of the entire world. And we are grateful to our party and the Soviet Government, which have decided to take such important and fundamental foreign policy actions."

The same thoughts and feelings imbue letters from frontline fighter I. Rychkov of Rostov on Don, Guards Lieutenant Colonel E. Mayatskiy from the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, worker V. Sharov of Kronshtadt, and other readers.

January immediately precedes the 27th CPSU Congress, which, as we know, will approve documents of historic importance. In the extensive pre-congress mail, our readers continue with interest and great patriotic enthusiasm to discuss the documents which will be considered at the forum of Communists and are making specific suggestions for refining certain points in the drafts. More than 200 such letters have already been published in our newspaper.

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA mailbag contains many letters telling about preparations for the 68th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, and about the next All-Union Month of Mass Defense Work. Millions of Soviet people have received good schooling in life and an education in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

This is what N. Karyukina of Orenburg wrote to the editors, for example: "My son Igor was frequently ill as a child and was exempted from physical exercises in school. And now, after 8 months of service, a miracle has simply happened with him. I did not recognize him when I visited the unit in which Igor serves. He has gained strength and is a junior sergeant. He tries to serve conscientiously. He does not believe that any "miracle" has occurred, however. It is just that a lot of extra work was done with him. He speaks with special warmth of Major Galimov (unfortunately, I do not know his first name or patronymic), political worker. A big maternal thanks to him!"

The first month of the year was filled with glorious military deeds by fightingmen of the army and navy. The editor's mailbag reflected the great dynamics of these days of intensity. It contained reports on tactical exercises, flights and naval cruises. The life of the military collectives and the combat training are being beneficially affected by participation in the socialist competition with the slogan: "We shall fulfill the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and reliably protect the gains of socialism"! It is gratifying that the readers mention young officers among the right-flank participants.

For example, Major A. Primaka writes from the Volga Military District that Lieutenant A. Malyashov, chief of a radar station, performed competently and confidently in a complex tactical situation. His men also demonstrated a high level of training. Despite the fact that the air targets were literally hugging the ground and employing jamming, the radarmen detected them in good time.

I would like to conclude the survey of January's mail with one of the letters which tell about how those who have fulfilled their international duty in Afghanistan are serving, working and studying.

"The cadet platoon commanded by Senior Lieutenant S. Ivanov operated as a separate reconnaissance patrol in tactical exercises," Captain S. Vereshchak reported to the editors from the Minsk Military Political Combined-Arms School. "During preparations for the trip to the field and during the exercise itself, the officer was vigorously assisted by Senior Sergeant Nikolay Bystritskiy and Senior Sergeant (extended duty) Vladimir Bystritskiy. The twin brothers themselves performed competently and with initiative in the battle. "They performed in the front-line manner," the instructor said at the end of the critique. And the future officers-and-political workers understood that these words reflected first of all their use of the know-how acquired in the performance of their international duty. Both the officer and the cadet brothers served as part of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Ivanov was awarded the Order of Lenin; Vladimir Bystritskiy, the Order of the Red Banner and the "For Valor" medal; and Nikolay Bystritskiy, the Order of the Red Star.

We await from you, dear readers, more letters about the life and training of personnel in the units and on the ships, about everything which fills up the workdays of the socialist homeland's defenders.

Drunkenness on Ship

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] "Strange Indecision"

The above was the title of a critical report from Captain 1st Rank A. Zlydnev published in the 9 January issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. It cited cases of liberal handling of boozers by the command element and the party organization on the ship on which Captain 3rd Rank Ye. Baranovskiy serves.

Rear Admiral A. Steblyanko has reported to the editors that the incidents cited in the article actually occurred. Demandingness by the ship's command element and the party committee has now been increased. A number of Communists have been brought to strict party accountability for their personal lack of discipline, and two of them have been expelled from the CPSU. Steps have been taken on the ship to enhance indoctrinational work with all categories of servicemen.

Captain 3rd Rank Ye. Baranovskiy, who has received a number of disciplinary and party penalties for drunkenness, has been recommended for discharge into the reserve.

Officers N. Novozhilov and A. Gagulin have given an account of their personal work to establish regulation order on the crew at a meeting of the ship division's party committee.

War Veteran Mistreated

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] "We Request That You Visit the Military Commissariat..."

The above was the title of a letter from Colonel (Res) N. Yachmenev published in our newspaper on 15 January. It discussed deficiencies in the performance of certain workers at the Dzerzhinskiy Rayon Military Commissariat in the city of Kharkov. Colonel Mirgorod, Oblast Military Commissar and Colonel Nagrebalnyy, Chief of the Political Section of the Oblast Military Commissariat, have reported to the editors that the incidents cited in the letter actually occurred. Major N. Rashchupkin has been admonished for improper service as a result of negligence in the performance of his service duties and disrespectful treatment of a Great Patriotic War veteran. By decision of the party organization, he was issued a stern reprimand, which was entered on his record. Colonel A. Olishchuk, Dzerzhinskiy Rayon Military Commissar, was issued a stern reprimand.

Colonel (Reserve) N. Yachmenev, who was treated in a tactless manner, has received apologies.

Unfair Housing Practices

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Feb 86 p 4

[Follow-up on letter by Maj A. Dokuchayev, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent:
"Exchange or Fraud?"]

[Text] And so, I was on my way to look into a complaint. It was an extremely delicate matter, a housing question. The facts reported to the editors by Tatyana Vitalyevna Gudima, a warrant officer's wife, had convinced me more and more that a housing question is not one of those which can be routinely resolved. There are almost always difficulties. And the people generally understand them. As a rule, they complain not about waiting periods for housing, but about its unfair distribution. Their complaints are not always justified. They are sometimes based solely on hearsay and false rumors.

Up to now Tatyana Vitalyevna had never written any letters of complaint. The apartment in which her family lived was considered on the post to be a good one. The homemaker herself considered it to be warm and cozy. Then the second child came, and the home became crowded and less comfortable. "We are not the only ones living in a two-room apartment with two children, though," is the way the Gudimas looked at it.

Just what forced Tatyana Vitalyevna all of a sudden to write, to rapidly change her views and arrive at the bitter conclusion that injustice reigned at their garrison? It is not difficult to find the answer in her letter: "We live in a small two-room apartment with two sons, while others are moving into three-room apartments without any right to do so...."

Let me say at the outset that this actually happened. Senior Warrant Officer A. Kiriyyenko, chief of the supply depot, had been living with his wife and a child in a two-room apartment. After a time he began wanting to improve his living conditions. The senior warrant officer wrote an application to the housing commission. He received a reasonable reply. He then appealed to the regimental commander.

The post residents woke up one morning and learned of a metamorphosis: Senior Warrant Officer Kiriyyenko's family had moved into the three-room apartment of Lieutenant Colonel V. Polyanskiy. The latter had moved into their two-room apartment. An exchange had been made. Everyone knew that it meant absolutely nothing to Polyanskiy. The officer was planning to leave the post and move with his family to a new station. It was a different matter for Kiriyyenko. It was clear without any sort of investigation that the exchange only had the appearance of legality. All the more, since it had been blessed by Officer N. Litovchenko, the commander, who, incidentally, was also planning to depart for a new station. There was literally no one on the post who could prevent such a turn of events and assess what had happened from a standpoint of principle. The chief of the political section was on leave, and his deputy was on a temporary duty assignment.

The two-room apartment in which Kiriyyenko's family had previously lived was soon occupied by a newly arrived officer. There was nothing left for the officials to do but to acknowledge the exchange de jure.

It is said that the earth is rife with rumors. Following that exchange the post literally seethed with talk and conjectures. Not surprising. If one machination was in evidence, then not all was pure in the distribution of other apartments as well. Now the same Tatyana Vitalyevna Gudima reported to the editors that the housing commission had illegally provided apartments for the families of the daughters of Officers A. Sokorchuk and O. Ryabinin. If the post residents had been informed in advance about why this step had been taken, however, there would have been no gossip. Everyone would have learned that the apartments which were assigned to them had stood empty up to that point, that no one on the post wanted them because they lacked conveniences. Furthermore, in their applications to the housing commission, Ryabinina and Sokorchuk, who worked in the unit, wrote that they were prepared to move out at the first demand.

No explanations were forthcoming, however. And many people on the post began to have doubts that housing matters were being decided fairly. This is inevitable where officials neglect to make things known, and particularly in such a matter as housing distribution. Added to this was the ill-conceived exchange....

When the commander permitted the Kiriyeenko family to move into the three-room apartment, he apparently did not think about the fact that such an exchange looks more like deception or about its consequences. The man in charge is obligated to foresee the consequences of his every decision, however. Everyone and everything is in plain view on a post. Furthermore, could one have expected such an incident to go unnoticed, when people today are reacting sharply to even the slightest injustice. An official can take very quiet action, but under the magnifying glass of public opinion any, even the smallest, incorrect move by an official takes on a negative moral tinge.

We use the expression "a matter of duty and a matter of conscience," which confirms the inseparability of these two concepts. Only so, as a matter of duty and a matter of conscience, will we be able to establish highly moral relations in our life.

The position taken by the present regimental commander throughout this incident is also surprising: "Senior Warrant Officer Kiriyeenko and his family moved into the three-room apartment with the commander's authorization, which means that he is living in it legally...." What do we have here? Is it the absence of legal knowledge or "his own" position?

No, a spade should be called a spade. And there can be no exceptions, because exceptions do irreparable damage to the rules by turning the law into that kind of [wagon] tongue which can be turned in any direction one wants.

Unethical Conduct of Officers

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] "Principle... for Emergencies"

The above was the title of a report from Colonel A. Andryushkov published in the 2 October 1985 issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. It discussed shortcomings in the moral education of the officers in one of the training air regiments.

Lieutenant General of Aviation V. Kamenskiy, commander of the Air Forces of the North Caucasus Military District, has reported to the editors that the report "Principle... for Emergencies" was studied and discussed by leading personnel of the units and subunits at the school, in the party organizations and at officers' meetings. Colonel N. Kharlashkin, regimental commander, has been sternly admonished for serious shortcomings in the training and indoctrination of subordinates. Lieutenant Colonel A. Melekhov, squadron commander, has been brought to party and disciplinary accountability and appointed to a position not involving training and indoctrination of the personnel. Major General of Aviation P. Pankin, school chief, and Colonel V. Derevyanko, chief of the political section, have been brought to party and disciplinary accountability for deficiencies in the party-political work performed with the officers.

By decision of a party commission under the Political Directorate of the Ground Forces, Captain V. Grikhutik has been issued a reprimand, which was entered into his record, for unsuitable behavior and the inability critically to assess his actions. This penalty was upheld by a decision of a party commission under the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The command element of the district air forces studied Captain Grikhutik's behavior and concluded that he has no moral right to train and indoctrinate cadets as a flight instructor.

Adherence to Routine, Cover-Ups

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Feb 86 p 2

[Responses to article under the rubric "Reform: The Communist's Position": "With a Critical View"]

[Text] Neither in the primary party organization nor in the political section did they want to hear out or understand Lieutenant V. Semenov, a young Communist and political worker, who could not accept the fact that at the meetings there was talk of reforming the workstyle, forms and methods, but nothing changed in the life of the subunit. And at the report-and-election party meeting someone told him that he was not speaking "to the point."

This was the subject of the report from Major N. Medvedev, "That Was the End of It...", published in our newspaper on 1 February of this year. The editors suggested that the readers continue the discussion and tell how the new approach to all matters established by the party is reflected in the mind and the attitude of the Communists and is affecting their workstyle, and to think about what is preventing a reformation in the spirit of the times. Here are the first responses.

Pulled Into the Old Rut

I read the article "That Was the End of It...", and began thinking. Why do we still so frequently greet literally with hostility that which we should

not simply welcome, but are obligated to accept as an acute necessity? When I look at life I notice that all of us are to a lesser or greater degree prisoners to certain stereotypes, which--and this causes all of the trouble--suit us, because they free us from making the highly difficult search and exerting our minds, even from pangs of conscience.

We were recently making preparations for a march for the new drivers. We began defining the route and thinking about the political work plan. Here too our opinions differed. Some people suggested a route worn smooth, so to speak, over the years, and safe. Others insisted that the route include a stretch of the legendary Road of Life, which linked blockaded Leningrad with the Big Country. It would have been difficult in places for a new driver. "Why look for things to happen?" some of them said. "Let the recent student test himself not just as a driver," others objected. "Let them breathe the air on the road over which the front-line drivers drove their one and a half tonners under fire and bombings." Major V. Tulaykin, battalion commander, chose the second alternative. The march was completed without a single admonition.

And it is the same in other matters. We are drawn along the beaten path. We become dependent upon what we are accustomed and conditioned to. Such dependency is convenient for those who want to live without trouble. And they put down those who do not want to accept their position: "Do you want more than everybody else, or what"? This is why they did not want to listen to or understand Lieutenant V. Semenov in the situation described in the article "That Was the End of It...."

Today it is very important for all Communists to be self critical in a principled way. Otherwise, you will not be in step with the demands of the times. This was stated at our report-and-election party meeting. Not everyone has yet succeeded in readjusting in the necessary way, however. Captain S. Kostin, a company commander, was even offended when the party organization complained to him about discipline and order in the subunit under his command. "How can you evaluate my work this way?" the communist asked with indignation. "Compare the situation today with the way things were in the past." Indeed, the company was once considered to be the worst with respect to discipline. Kostin has done a great deal to rectify the situation." He felt that there were no longer any grounds for concern, however, and relaxed his efforts. Petty infractions continued, but the company commander did not pay them any special attention. Compared with the way things were, these are trifling matters, was how he saw it. How things are should be the reference point, however, and not "the way things were." Otherwise, we shall not achieve the major change required today in the strengthening of discipline and order.

How are the Communists in our party organization restructuring their work in the spirit of today's demands? We have adopted something new: prior to every party meeting one of the members of the battalion party bureau discusses this matter briefly. He tells us what kind of changes have occurred in our party work, in the organization and quality of the political classes, as an example, analyzes the political activeness of the Communists and their behavior in their personal lives, their relations with comrades, and so forth.

This helps us to intensively assess the state of affairs and to move forward. Discussions of public-political ratings of the Communists at party meetings also promote activeness. Such ratings have already been issued for Captain S. Smirnov, Senior Warrant Officer V. Drobot, O. Trivozhenko and others. What determines the effectiveness of these work methods? Primarily the level of demandingness with which the party organization arms itself.

Senior Lieutenant Ye. Tratnikov,
secretary of a battalion party organization,
Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District

Doing Something or the Appearance of Doing Something?

The air regiment which was commanded until recently by Colonel N. Yershov was the leader in the district air forces. The acknowledged leader. The regiment was accustomed to being praised and cited as an example. A certain stereotype gradually developed in the minds even of certain air force staff officers and political section workers--we must be self-critical--in accordance with which all things were determined by beginning with the proposition that "Yershov's regiment is the best...." When commissions were sent there, they always had an assignment to summarize the advanced know-how. When inspection teams came, they would overlook certain shortcomings, justifying this with the dubious premise that the only ones who have no shortcomings are those who do nothing.

But was everything actually in good order? On the whole the regiment had received energetic and knowledgeable people, but even they were soon lulled by the undulations of leadership which caressed the ego. Many of them relaxed their efforts and began covering up negative occurrences: why ruin our reputation and upset the leaders, they reasoned. One rarely heard criticism at party meetings. And if criticism was voiced, there were always those who carefully smoothed out the sharp edges and even reproached the ones who had spoken out:

"Why create a tempest in a teapot? We can resolve this on the job...."

The result was approximately the same as in the military construction detachment discussed in the article by Major N. Medvedev. "That Was the End of It...." The people did not want to face up to the shortcomings. Ostentation and complacency thrived. Bright reports went to upper echelons.

The following question is the most painful thing in the party conscience today: Why do such things occur before the eyes of many Communists, but only isolated individuals bring themselves to speak out? Shouldn't every Communist feel a spiritual rejection of everything done for show, everything dishonorable? Logically, those who attempt to cover up their inability to work with embellished reports should feel uncomfortable, but in reality it is sometimes the opposite: those whose hearts cannot accept ostentation and divergence between words and deeds find themselves in disgrace.

In such cases a great deal depends upon the Communist and leader. Some of them quite often decide "that is the end of it," without getting to the bottom

of urgent questions. This is also an ingrained style which needs to be broken up and reformed.

I believe that it is very important today for every communist to develop in himself a dislike for show and ostentation in anything. There are still many manifestations of this, however.

Take this situation, for example. The chief is expected at a garrison. Vigorous preparations are begun: the territory, the barracks and the air field are tidied up. And "public opinion" is sometimes also properly prepared, so that no one accidentally says too much. This is done to "show things to good effect." What results, however, is that hastily produced luster is shown. And we Communists and leaders should not be blinded by that external gloss. The matter should be stated this way: there should always be order, and not just when superior chiefs and commissions arrive. It should be warm in the barracks, and the food in the mess hall should taste good, and there should be cleanliness and comfort--always.

I spoke with the young pilots and technicians in one of the regiments. I knew that not everything was as it should be there. I asked them what was hampering them in their work, creating not entirely good feelings in the service. They averted their eyes, preferring not to bring up a "touchy" subject. All the more, since the regimental commander himself took the initiative and briskly reported that everything was fine, that no one had any problems. Some people have forgotten how to speak of problems and shortcomings simply and straightforwardly. This is dangerous, because it removes them from life's truth, relieves them, as it were, of worry and effort.

We can say frankly that certain leaders, those who did not become imbued with the spirit of the modern demands, figured that they could rely upon two or three innovations, two or three new approaches for organizing the work--and their readjustment was complete. To think this way is to slide once again into the swamp of superficiality and working in spurts.

It is very important to develop a principled approach to the job. Here is just one example. Demonstration exercises were planned, using regiment "X," in organizing air field defenses against a tactical airborne landing by an "enemy." Although there was enough time for the preparations, many matters were still overlooked in the regiment.

Colonel D. Pishchagin, an officer with the district air force directorate, insisted that the exercises be postponed.

"Can you imagine how the best regiment is going to appear in the eyes of our superiors if we do this?" Lieutenant Colonel V. Valov, in charge of air-field ground defenses, asked, attempting to talk him out of it. "A postponement will be viewed as a failure, and you know what that will mean...."

There were even those in the air force directorate who did not support Pishchagin. The officer was inflexible, however. The exercise was conducted somewhat later, but it was real training for everyone--without compromise.

Unfortunately, some officers-and-Communists upon whose performance the successful accomplishment of many flight training matters depends lack this kind of principle. For example, officers under Lieutenant Colonel L. Pogozhev spent most of last year in the units and subunits. This should be an encouraging thing, one would think. Not much came of the work, however. The reason is apparently that the officers used lowered criteria for assessing the state of affairs in the subordinate units. The comrades had to be corrected and shown where and in what way they needed to reform.

And speaking of the main thing needed today, it is precisely to raise the criteria for assessing the state of affairs, the work methods and the position of the Communists in all things, raise it to that height indicated by the party's present demands.

Deficiencies in Construction, Installation Work

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] "More Costly to Oneself..."

The above was the title of a report from Major B. Zotov published in the 18 December 1985 issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. It told about red tape in the construction of an important project.

Colonel D. Kurbakov has reported to the editors that an inspection has confirmed the facts cited in the newspaper. Specific steps have been taken to correct the deficiencies and improve the quality of the construction and installation work. Measures have been worked out with the contract organization to increase control to see that the technical standards and rules are absolutely observed.

Lieutenant Colonel T. Mustafayev, senior man on the project, has been sternly reminded of the need to intensify technical supervision over the construction and the acceptance of the completed jobs.

Mismanagement in Motor Pool

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 86 p 2

[Letter to editor from Sr WO S. Furdilov, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "The Fruits of Mismanagement"]

[Text] Respected editors:

I have served in the army 23 years. I have a certain amount of experience, as they say, in working with people and experience in servicing the equipment. I was forced to write by deviations from documents governing the combat training work in our subunit.

Today, at a time when the airmen and all Soviet fightingmen have begun performing the tasks set for the Armed Forces by the 27th CPSU Congress, it is extremely important for all of us who are involved in indoctrinating the

fightingmen to define specific plans for the future. The most important thing, however, is to identify deficiencies in the work, to get to the root of them, as they say, and root out the deficiencies.

I serve in a separate motor vehicle battalion in the Air Forces, GSVG [Group of Soviet Forces in Germany]. I occupy the position of technician. What sort of position this is and what my functional duties are is to this day a mystery both to me and to my chiefs.

When I arrived here, Lieutenant Colonel A. Sokolov, the battalion commander, talked with me and became convinced that I know about motor vehicles. I was then appointed chief of storage facilities for the equipment which is not used on a daily basis. I took over my assigned job with great enthusiasm. I studied the manual and the instructions for this service. Now, I thought, I will know my vehicles inside out. What could be difficult about this? Clean them, paint them, clean the storage facilities and see to the condition of the equipment. In reality, however, not everything proved to be so simple. According to the guiding documents, the company commanders bear responsibility for maintaining the equipment, the buildings and the grounds of the tools. All of these duties were shifted to me alone, however. No one worried about whether I would be able to perform them well. And there is a considerable quantity of equipment, after all.

One soldier is constantly assigned to help me, to be sure. I do not see him at the pool, however. Now he is in a parade, now working at a different place under orders from his commander. All of this affects the maintenance and the combat readiness of the equipment, of course.

Or take the condition of the storage facilities. In the first place, the compartments for the vehicles which I service are supposed to be separate from the storage facilities for the equipment in constant use. We have no provisions for this. In the second place, the equipment is guarded by sentries only at night. I guard it myself in the daytime. And in the third place, the storage facilities are in a state of neglect. The roofs leak, and the gates are rotted through. Material and equipment are not allocated for repairing them, even though many subsidiary buildings and fences were recently built. The most interesting thing is that orders were soon given to destroy everything which had been built. And how much labor, time and means went into it! In short, the money simply went down the drain.

This is not the end of the mismanagement in our unit. The motor vehicles are serviced poorly, since some of the technical equipment in the subunits has been cannibalized. Drivers are assigned to the specific vehicles only on paper.

On 26 October of last year the unit commander ordered me to take over a refueling point. The release and acceptance were only a formality, since the commission members were not present. They simply signed the documents. There were substantial shortcomings both in the records on the GSM [fuels and lubricants] and in the equipment at the refueling point. Six of the pumps malfunction, for example, and the meters do not give the correct readings. I reported this through the chain of command, but nothing has been done.

One of my service obligations is to perform pool duty. A duty man is charged with responsible duties, of course. In our unit, however, it is customary for the pool duty man to be taken away from those duties and sent to perform administrative work or to serve as a vehicle commander. When he leaves the pool, the duty man turns over his duties to the orderly, if there is one, or simply to the driver of the duty tractor.

Do not think that I am complaining about service difficulties and deprivations. No, I am disturbed by the fact that people in the battalion ignore the infractions and do not react to reports on them.

Senior Warrant Officer S. Furdilov,
Group of Soviet Forces in Germany

From the editors: Colonel V. Kiryazov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, acquainted air force rear service officers in the GSVG, and specifically Major A. Kornev, who is responsible for the GSM service, back in December with the facts cited by Senior Warrant Officer S. Furdilov in his letter.

In January these facts were reported to Colonels D. Tenditnikov and V. Shatalov, who promised to take action on the letter to the newspaper. As of now, however, no one has visited the subunit in which Senior Warrant Officer Furdilov serves.

Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Shcherbakov, secretary of the rear service party organization of the air forces, GSVG, promised to exert party pressure upon Major Kornev. An investigation of the letter conducted before it was published showed that nothing had been done, however.

The concern of the letter writer for establishing order in the battalion came into conflict with the indifference of those who are obligated to combat mismanagement.

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ARMED FORCES

OBITUARY: V. YA. GOLOVKIN

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Mar 86 p 4

[Text] Vasilii Yakovlevich Golovkin, Colonel General (retired), a prominent political worker of the Armed Forces and participant in the Great Patriotic War, died after a prolonged illness. A faithful son of the Soviet people has departed. He devoted his entire conscious life to selfless service to the socialist Motherland and the Communist party, of which he was a member since 1931.

V. Ya. Golovkin was born on 10 January 1909 in the village of Yefremovo, Borovicheskiy Rayon, Novgorod Oblast, in a peasant family. He volunteered for service in the Red Army and served in the border troops. After being transferred to the reserves he performed Komsomol and party work. He graduated from the Higher School for Party Organizers at the TsK VKP(b) [Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (of Bolsheviks)].

V. Ya. Golovkin served on active duty from the first days of the Great Patriotic War. He was a political section chief of the Army on the Western, Bryansk and 2nd Belorussian fronts.

After the war V. Ya. Golovkin was appointed political directorate chief of a military district. He subsequently held the position of political section chief of the staff and directorates in the Rear Services of the USSR Armed Forces and party committee secretary of the Main Staff and directorates of the commander in chief of Ground Forces. For a considerable period of time he was the member of the military council-political directorate chief of the Kiev Military District. He subsequently served as deputy chief at the directorate for Political Affairs of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

V. Ya. Golovkin performed his military and party duties with an elevated sense of responsibility wherever he was assigned by the party. He was characterized by purposefulness, persistence, high principles, and a sensitive and considerate attitude towards people, by concern for them.

V. Ya. Golovkin participated actively in the public and political life of the country. He was a delegate to the 23rd CPSU Congress and a deputy of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet.

For services to the Soviet Motherland, V. Ya. Golovkin was awarded the Red Banner Order four times, the War of the Fatherland Order First Class twice, the Red Star Order, Badge of Honor and other medals.

May the memory of Vasilii Yakovelevich Golovkin, an ardent patriot of our Motherland, a courageous warrior and communist, live long in our hearts.

V. G. Kulikov, V. I. Petrov, A. D. Lizichev, Ye. F. Ivanovskiy, S. K. Kurkotkin, A. I. Sorokin, M. A. Gareyev, V. S. Nechayev, D. A. Volkogonov, I. M. Golushko, V. S. Rodin, M. D. Popkov, S. A. Bobylev, L. L. Batekhin, P. N. Medvedev, V. V. Osipov, V. I. Balakirev, V. D. Lukinykh, V. G. Serebryakov, N. I. Smorigo, G. V. Sredin, A. N. Agafonov, V. F. Arapov, S. P. Vasyagin, A. S. Aheltov, I. S. Mednikov, M. Ye. Kulikov, I. Ye. Yefimov.

13005/9435

CSO: 1801/143

ARMED FORCES

OBITUARY: I. I. VOLKOTRUBENKO

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Colonel General Ivan Ivanovich Volkotrubenko, retired, a participant in the Civil War and Great Patriotic War and a veteran of the Soviet Armed Forces, died suddenly in his 88th year.

A faithful son of the Soviet people has departed. He devoted all his energy and knowledge in selfless service to the socialist motherland and to the work of the Communist Party, of which he was a member since 1924.

I. I. Volkotrubenko was born on 25 July 1898 in the village of Cherntsy, Baltskiy Rayon, Odessa Oblast, in a peasant family. In 1918 he enlisted in the Red Army and rose through the ranks of the Armed Forces from Red Army private to colonel general. He entered the Great Patriotic War as artillery supply chief of the South-Western Front. During the war and in the postwar period I. I. Volkotrubenko held a number of leadership positions with troops and served in military educational institutions and in the central organization of the Ministry of Defense.

I. I. Volkotrubenko discharged his party and service duties with an elevated sense of responsibility in all posts to which he was assigned by the party. He made a significant contribution to the organization of artillery supply service and provision of supplies and equipment for troops. He was characterized by efficiency, modesty and sensitivity toward people.

The services of I. I. Volkotrubenko were valued highly by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. He was awarded two Orders of Lenin; three Red Banner Orders; Orders of Suvorov Second Class, Kutuzov First and Second Classes, War of the Fatherland First Class; Order of Labor Red Banner; Red Star Order; Badge of Honor; and many medals.

May the memory of Ivan Ivanovich Volkotrubenko, a faithful son of the Communist Party and Soviet people, live forever in our hearts.

Signed:

Ye. F. Ivanovskiy, M. D. Popkov, A. M. Mayorov, D. A. Grinkevich, V. A. Merimskiy, V. M. Mikhalkin, S. Kh. Aganov, Yu. M. Potapov, V. K. Pikalov, P. I. Bazhenov, Yu. M. Andrianov, V. Ya. Lebedev, P. N. Kuleschov, G. Ye. Peredel'skiy, R. Ye. Guziyenko, V. N. Dutov, K. P. Kazakov, M. Ye. Penkin, A. V. Taskayev, A. N. Zakharov, S. T. Dashkov, V. G. Kostev, Yu. M. Lazarev

13005/9435
CSO: 1801/143

ARMED FORCES

OBITUARY: V. N. GRYAZNOV

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 22 Mar 86 p 4

[Text] Lt General Vyacheslav Nikolayevich Gryaznov, first deputy troop commander of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District, died suddenly on 19 March 1986. He devoted his entire life in selfless service to the socialist motherland, strengthening the combat might of the USSR Armed Forces and work of the Communist Party, of which he was a member since 1958.

V. N. Gryaznov was born on 24 August 1937 in the village of Staribslovo, Kilyazinskiy Rayon, Kalinin Oblast. In 1954 he enrolled in the Ryazan Higher Military School.

In 1967 V. N. Gryaznov graduated from the Military Academy imeni M. V. Frunze and, in 1981, from the Military Academy of the General Staff imeni K. Ye. Voroshilov, finishing with a gold medal.

V. N. Gryaznov travelled a long road in the ranks of the Soviet Army from cadet to lieutenant general. He served in staff positions and commanded a regiment, division and large formation (obyedineniye). In October 1985 he was appointed first deputy troop commander of the Transcaucasus Military District.

V. N. Gryaznov was noted for an elevated sense of responsibility for the task at hand, his party principles, a creative approach to solving problems encountered, skillful combination of exactingness and concern for subordinates, and his simplicity and modesty. He promoted in all ways the increase of combat readiness of units and field forces in which he served and the improvement of training and political indoctrination of personnel, while enjoying deep respect in the district troops.

V. N. Gryaznov participated actively in public and political life. He was selected as a candidate for membership in the Georgia Communist Party Central Committee and was a deputy of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet.

The services of V. N. Gryaznov were valued highly by the motherland. He was awarded the order "For Services to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces," Second and Third Classes, and many medals.

May the memory of Vyacheslav Nikolayevich Gryaznov, a faithful son of the Communist Party and patriot of the socialist motherland, live forever in our hearts.

Signed:

K. S. Demirchyan, G. M. Voskanyan, F. T. Sarkisyan, Yu. P. Kochetkov, M. P. Koleskinov, K. I. Cherepancy, E. V. Porfiryev, M. P. Pishchev, V. V. Krolevets, V. N. Mikhaylenko, P. P. Yermolayev, A. V. Kazaryan, L. Kh. Melkonov, G. O. Martirosyan

13005/9435

CSO: 1801/143

GROUND FORCES

LT GEN NURMAGAMBETOV DISCUSSES SERVICE LIFE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Mar 86 p 2

[Article by Lt Gen S. Nurmagambetov, HSU, under "Our Soviet Way of Life" rubric: "According to Laws of Brotherhood"]

[Text] The author of today's discussion, Sagadat Kozhakhmetovich Nurmagambetov, completed the 1st Turkestan Machinegun School during the Great Patriotic War and commanded a machinegun platoon and company and a rifle battalion at the front. Together with his 301st Rifle Division he took part in the liberation of the Caucasus, Donbass, Southern Ukraine, Moldavia and Poland, and he assaulted government buildings in Berlin, including Hitler's Reichs Chancellery.

In the postwar years he held various command positions. He now is deputy commander of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District and a deputy to the KaSSR Supreme Soviet.

The course of time is indomitable. Our country's life is dynamic and filled with important events. Resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the very important political documents it approved give the country's development a new acceleration.

A great deal was discussed at the congress: our achievements, our deficiencies, and tasks for the future. Our people look to the future with optimism. They are sure that everything planned by the party will be fulfilled. The strengthening solidarity of Soviet citizens and fraternal friendship of all nations and nationalities of our socialist Motherland serve among other factors as a certain guarantee of this. Mentally returning again and again to the CPSU Central Committee Political Report, especially to those lines where it speaks of the party's policy of nationalities and the unity of the multinational Soviet society, I think that each of us who was born in and who lives in the Land of Soviets has felt this powerful force of friendship and brotherhood more than once. I sensed it for the first time (perhaps then not fully comprehended) back in childhood.

I was born in the village of Trudovoy, Alekseyevskiy Rayon, Akmolinsk (now Tselinograd) Oblast. It was a stern steppe land. Kazakhs and Russians, Ukrainians, Belorussians and Tatars lived in harmony in our village as a single family. From the time I was little I heard and fell in love with the drawling Kazakh "kyui," the melodious Ukrainian tunes full of tenderness and sadness, and the mischievous Russian chastooshkas.

Life was not easy. I had to experience the fate of an orphan early--I was left without parents at age eight. My fellow villagers substituted as people near and dear to me. These simple, kind, concerned and industrious people personified for me our multinational Motherland. It was from them I learned to live according to the laws of brotherhood.

It so happened that all of my life consisted of such lessons, and there were especially many of them at the front. I often asked myself: Would I have been able to cover the war roads, reach the victory having worthily fulfilled my duty to the homeland, and become the person I became had I not felt this life-giving strength of friendship constantly, everywhere and in everything, and had I not known that next to me in the trench or in the attacking skirmish line were my comrades in arms, among whom there were soldiers of different nationalities?

I go over in memory the events of war years and recall the people with whom war brought me together. They were different both in age and nationality, but the demand was the same for everyone; everyone was equal before the oath given the Motherland, whether one was a Kazakh, Russian, Moldavian or Georgian. The more experienced veteran fighting men taught the young ones, including us commanders, the soldier's wisdom and sharpness and shared everything as brothers: tobacco, a dried crust, the last swallow of water. Together we mourned the dead, together we rejoiced in victories and together we went into combat shoulder to shoulder. And each day of the war, each clash with the enemy brought more and more evidence of the unity of our fraternal peoples.

No matter where we fought, everywhere we sensed support from the people--toilers of the rear and the local populace. I remember when our regiment was preparing for the assault crossing of the Dnieper. Residents of nearby villages helped us in everything. Emaciated, ragged, half-starved old men, women and children brought everything that could be of use, giving up what little they had. When we began to advance to the assault crossing area an old Ukrainian came up to me. Shaking my hand, he said: "I would fly with you, eagles, but my wings are weak. Don't spare those cutthroats, son. Take revenge for the native soil." I didn't say anything to the old man, but just embraced him firmly and ran to catch up with the company. How I understood this elderly person and how in keeping his words were with what countrymen were writing me from far-off Kazakhstan.

In one of his works K. Marx wrote that "war subjects a nation to a test." Yes, the incredible tests which fell to the Soviet people's lot revealed in all completeness the powerful force of their morale born of the entire tenor of our system. This is just what the heads of Hitler's Reich didn't consider; they believed the Soviet Union to be an "artificial consolidation of an enormous number of nations," "an ethnic conglomerate" devoid of any vital

capacity whatsoever. How they were deceived in hoping that national strife would begin here with the beginning of war. The war unified our great family even more. The sons and daughters of all peoples defended the Motherland against the enemy, and the Russian people united and inspired citizens of different nationalities. There were innumerable times at the front and in the rear when I saw the strength of spirit, courage, allegiance to duty, kindness and selflessness of the Russian citizen.

Today when our great Motherland is heading confidently and at a swift pace along the path toward building communism, all Soviet people are making their contribution toward strengthening the Armed Forces. Military collectives specifically are that medium where the internationalist spirit becomes established best and where relationships of friendship, comradeship and mutual help are best formed. No matter where I served our multinational Motherland, I always saw and still see that the fraternal friendship of peoples is a powerful spiritual force of Soviet military personnel, an inexhaustible source of their courage and valor. This is constantly confirmed during combat training and in day-to-day military labor.

I was told how in Afghanistan once our soldiers were escorting a convoy of vehicles with cargo for the residents of a remote area. Machineguns and rocket launchers struck almost point-blank at an abandoned kishlak [village] where the road made a sharp turn.

The dushmans' calculation was simple: bring movement to a standstill, create panic on the road and destroy the column. Three rockets [granaty] hit the lead vehicle. Oil leaked from a punctured tank and immediately caught fire. The crew members were either contused or wounded. Nevertheless, driver-mechanic Gds Pvt Vladimir Perebeynos managed to make his way out of the burning BMP [infantry fighting vehicle].

A person's first impulse in such a situation is to hide behind the armor and take cover from the hail of lead. And no one would have condemned the soldier for doing that. But he did something else: he again threw himself on the armor and pulled out his colleagues--soldiers of an international crew--by opening the rear hatches; he helped those inside get out and only then did he fall to the ground in an attempt to beat the flame off his coveralls.

The soldier saved his comrades in arms at the risk of his life. I am sure that he didn't even think of doing otherwise. The entire tenor of our society and the Soviet way of life prepared him for the exploit. Readiness for an exploit and comradeship in arms are characteristic traits of all personnel of the Armed Forces, including those of our Red Banner Central Asian Military District. You rejoice when you encounter displays of genuine internationalism, comradely mutual help and an attentive attitude toward representatives of different nationalities while visiting the units.

Surface-to-air missile unit "X" is one of the best in the district. The missilemen, who are of different nationalities, are as one in their desire to sacredly fulfill their duty to the Motherland. Examples of friendship, comradeship and mutual help are encountered here at literally every step in the intense routine of military training. Perhaps they are not as vivid and

effective as those which occur in real combat, but their basis is the same-- Soviet patriotism and internationalism, and the indestructible brotherhood of our peoples. Commanders, political officers and the party organization of the unit do a great deal to bring up the personnel in a spirit of love for the Motherland and nationwide pride in its wonderful achievements. Agitation-propaganda work, the personnel's political studies and socialist competition are aimed at this. And one sees the results of this extensive work in the fact that the unit achieved the title of outstanding and was awarded the USSR Minister of Defense Pennant for Courage and Military Valor.

The 27th CPSU Congress emphasized the need to display special sensitivity and discretion toward everything concerning national policy or touching on people's national feelings. The district military council and the commanders and political bodies of units [soyedineniye and chast] are guided above all specifically by this in directing their efforts toward unifying the multinational military collectives and creating in them a healthy moral atmosphere. We believe that today Armed Forces collectives are becoming more and more international in their make-up. For example, representatives of more than 40 nations and nationalities of the country serve in our district. Of course, this places its imprint on the personnel's life and on the work of commanders, political bodies, and party and Komsomol organizations. Thoughtful, comprehensive consideration of servicemen's national features permits more successful accomplishment of the tasks of indoctrinating the personnel in a spirit of fraternal friendship of Soviet peoples.

Our society is strong and powerful in its unity. But it must be borne in mind that national prejudices are an extremely tenacious phenomenon which maintains a clutching hold on the minds of people who are insufficiently mature in the political sense. Of course we also cannot discount the fact that the question of nationalities has been and remains one of the most acute sectors of ideological struggle. Our class enemies do not give up attempts to sow seeds of discord in Soviet society in hopes of weakening its unity if only a little. We must counter this skillfully.

And I cannot be silent about one other thing. I am grieved to the depth of my soul each time I encounter individual facts of the soldiers' poor knowledge of various nationalities of the Russian language. I see here the incomplete work of some schools and military commissariats. The Russian language is the language of international intercourse, friendship and brotherhood of Soviet peoples. For me personally it always has been the key to a treasurehouse of knowledge. I do not conceive my life without Pushkin and Mayakovskiy, without Tolstoy and Gorky. I am proud that people throughout the country read classics of Kazakh literature Abay Kunanbayev, Mukhtar Auezov and others--the Russian language opened up for them a broad road into the world. I am deeply convinced that each person who really loves his people, their culture and his native language has to study the language of V. I. Lenin.

Consistent implementation of a Leninist policy of nationalities and comprehensive strengthening of the friendship of peoples is a component part of the improvement of socialism, a path toward further prosperity of our multinational socialist Motherland tested by social practice. That is what

the CPSU Program says about it. And our entire life, which is based on immutable laws of brotherhood, convinces us of this.

In a free hour I often come to the Park imeni 28 Panfilov Guardsmen, one of the most beautiful places in Alma-Ata. Quiet paths lead to the Glory Memorial, a magnificent structure of metal and stone. The Panfilov soldier has risen up in the enemy's path with arms spread wide. Next to him are his comrades in arms--soldiers of different nationalities. For me this symbol is one of unity and solidarity of our fraternal peoples and of the courage and valor of armed defenders of our unified homeland.

6904

CSO: 1800/150

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

CADET DESIGN BUREAU AT NOVOCHERKASSK COMMAND SCHOOL DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 86 p 2

[Article by Col (Ret) N. Vasilyev under "For Economy and Thrift" rubric: "The Cadet Design Bureau Proposes"]

[Text] A display entitled "Our Cadet Design Bureau" catches the attention in the training building of the Novocherkassk Higher Military Command School of Communications imeni Mar SU V. D. Sokolovskiy. Beneath photos of the most active bureau members included in the display is a list and annotations of research efforts accomplished, their technical descriptions and the economic effect obtained. Just from this brief information one can judge what a significant contribution the cadet KB [design bureau] is making to the solution of important technical problems and to the struggle for economy and thrift.

"The design bureau brought together the most capable cadets who are members of the Military Scientific Society and who are inclined toward innovative creation," said Col Yu. Bazhenov, deputy chief for scientific work of the school's academic department and a candidate of technical sciences, when we met. "This occurred just a few years ago, but during this time tens of various orders received from troop units already have been fulfilled."

Not long ago, for example, an automatic device for monitoring the work of radiotelegraphers during their training was put to use. The order for it came before the beginning of the new academic year. One of the chairs asked that a problem be solved which had complicated instructors' work for a long while and demanded much nonproductive labor. Here is what it was about. After the cadets' classes and practices on communications equipment it is necessary to visually compare numerous radio messages with a master text. On some days over a hundred such radio messages pile up. When we consider that it takes 4-5 minutes to check a 50-group radio message then it is obvious how much valuable time is spent checking.

The cadet design bureau accepted the chair's request. Maj V. Kurnosov and cadets A. Panaetov and A. Yatsenko were assigned to find a technical solution to the problem. Candidate of Technical Sciences Lt Col S. Sukharev was in

charge of the project. Soon a special device was created which, with the help of a microcomputer, permits comparing the practice radio texts with the masters.

In principle the request had been fulfilled, but what was done did not fully satisfy the innovators. A new idea sprouted: to couple the device with technical equipment of the training classroom. A teaching system resulted which makes it possible to exercise an "express check" of the quality of cadets' work even during the classes.

Many other teaching devices have been made and put to use. Among them is a trainer for work on communications channel multiplexing equipment. It was designed under the direction of Lt Col L. Makhonin by cadets Yu. Proshchenko and I. Sayevich. The trainer has been placed into series production.

The cadet design bureau's projects have been exhibited repeatedly at the "Scientific-Technical Creativeness of the Youth" exhibits arranged by the USSR VDNKh [Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy]. A device for determining storage battery capacity generated great interest in specialists. Where does its value lie? Capacity usually was determined by conducting a rather lengthy "charge-discharge" operation of some three days. A completely different principle was made the basis of the device which was created. Implementation of the idea required almost three years and some 50 cadets took part in the project overall. On the other hand, the result exceeded expectations: the device permits storage battery capacity to be determined in just three seconds. This work was recognized with the USSR VDNKh silver medal.

The very same award was conferred on a spectrophotometer, a device for determining the degree of pollution of bodies of water without taking samples, made for the national economy by a group of designers under the direction of Lt Col V. Velegur. The innovation was tested under various conditions and demonstrated high effectiveness.

I would like to emphasize that a large number of devices developed by school designers provide a significant economic effect. For example, a new technology for mothballing portable communications equipment suggested by innovators and put to use in many units [chast and soyedineniye] already has produced a significant saving. Strictly speaking, all work of the design bureau is directed toward finding and developing innovations which not only improve the quality of the training process, but also make it more economical.

But in the opinion of the heads and members of the cadet design bureau, their contribution to the struggle for thrift and economy can be considerably greater. What interferes? Above all it is the limited amount of time set aside for innovative work: just once a week for three hours. It would appear that this amount of time is clearly insufficient for successful work. Of course it is possible that even three hours a week is sufficient for those bureau members who are as yet only seeking a solution and accumulating material. But when an idea has been carried out and approved and when "things get going," as the saying goes, it is hardly advisable to take a break for an entire week.

Questions of logistical support to projects have been far from fully resolved. The design bureau's needs are not accounted for by any allocations [limity]. It is constantly necessary to expend time and effort to obtain or dislodge something. At times original, promising concepts exist for an unjustifiably long time only in drawings and calculations--there is a lack of necessary parts and instruments for their embodiment in design.

The circumstance that scientific management of the cadets' innovative creativeness is not taken into account as an academic load for school instructors also has a noticeable effect on the work. Strictly speaking, all scientific management is arranged exclusively based on enthusiasts.

Many other questions of all kinds face the design bureau. The solutions to many of them do not depend just on school heads, but they have to be solved and, it would appear, solved without delay. This is not just because successful work of design bureaus is a direct path to a real and (as experience shows) significant contribution of military educational institutions to the nationwide struggle for thrift and economy. It is also because involvement in active innovative creativeness from cadet years is a demand of the times, a need dictated by the very process of acceleration of scientific-technical progress and by the scope of those tasks specified by the 27th party congress, in the solution of which an important place is set aside for our young people, including future military cadres.

6904

CSO: 1801/150

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

IMPROVING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SCHOOLS

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Mar 86 p 2

[Article by Col G. Vanyurikhin, doctor of technical sciences, professor: "Capabilities and Problems: Make More Effective Use of the Scientific Potential of Military Educational Institutions"]

[Text] We are chatting with Maj Gen B. Nazarov about capabilities of the military educational institution sector of science. The discussion touches on the most varied aspects of research but, as if going around in a circle, it again returns to where we began and to what now excites the scientist: development of a new technical system.

A design bureau generally is working to create this system, but the scientific-pedagogic collective headed by Boris Ivanovich also is taking part in designing it. His collective has been assigned to ensure a so-called scientific-technical "accompaniment" of the development. The task of the military educational institution's scientists is to base the system on the most effective modern schematic and design solutions which would best satisfy the rigid tactical and technical specifications being placed on it. The task is a very urgent and very complicated one. Time periods for accomplishing it are limited and there are still many unresolved problems. Realizing the extent to which these problems are holding up development rates, I dare ask the question:

"Boris Ivanovich, imagine that everything conceived will come about on the spot. What would you like to have to speed up the work?"

The major general responds as if it were something that had been thought out and that matured long ago:

"First of all, I would reinforce the research laboratory with young, energetic research engineers. Secondly, I would give the instructors an opportunity to really engage in research on the mandatory condition that the academic load be reduced for the most capable and active ones. This probably is most important for the work."

The requests of the scientist and manager seemed to me to be rather modest, but his opinion about the role and place of the instructor in research coincided with mine. In fact, speaking of the more effective utilization of the scientific potential of military educational institutions and counting on a significant improvement in the connection between university science and production and on bringing science closer to the needs of practical work, as mentioned at the 27th party congress, then one simply cannot get by without actively bringing in a wide range of instructors for scientific investigations. This is confirmed by the experience of many instructors, including Boris Ivanovich himself. An Honored Worker of Science and Technology of the RSFSR, doctor of technical sciences and professor, Maj Gen Nazarov has been engaged in instructional activities for 35 years; he has headed the chair which is one of the best in the Military Academy imeni F. E. Dzerzhinskiy in the organization of research for 25 years.

The contribution to science by instructors of the chairs headed by doctors of technical sciences, professors Maj Gen Yu. Kryuchkov, Col N. Yegorov and Col P. Kolodeyev is well known.

It must be admitted, however, that the role of military educational institutions in the development of current military-technical problems is still minor today. The scientific potential accumulated in military educational institutions is not being used to the full extent.

Why? The reasons vary. One of them (mentioned earlier) is the fact that a considerable number of scientists are incapable of engaging in research to the full extent because of their heavy load of instructional work. Even if an instructor clearly gravitates to scientific work, under the existing situation it is practically impossible for him to reduce his academic load (for example, by shifting a portion of it to an instructor not inclined toward scientific exploration).

The matter also is aggravated by the fact that far from all heads of military educational institutions give proper attention to scientific work and show little concern for creating conditions for scientific-technical creativeness or for developing a scientific-experimental facility. Some of them see their role in directing scientific activities to be one of "critical analysis" of scientists and exertion of administrative pressure on them.

There is no question that exactingness also is necessary in the scientific sphere, but isn't it naive to assume that a scientist can be forced to work creatively out of fear of receiving a "two" or a low grade [uchetnyy ball], which by the way merely creates the illusion of an objective evaluation of the work of a scientist-instructor. It is much more important, albeit more troublesome, to provide daily help to actively working instructors and scientific associates by freeing them from petty, routine matters and from a rigid "monitoring of employment" (whether or not a person is sitting in his place), to establish a genuinely creative atmosphere in the chairs and laboratories and, finally, to solve the so-called "broken time" problem, i.e., to make it possible for the scientist to work continuously during hours convenient for him, and not in breaks between lectures.

These are of course old truths which have long since ceased to be a discovery for managers dealing with the organization of scientific activity. But a trend noted many years ago has not changed: there are fewer and fewer "pure" scientists among the heads of military educational institutions and faculties. This leads to a situation where the fundamental teaching principle of "do as I do" (it is also important in the organization of scientific activity) is violated. It often happens that a faculty chief who is only approximately familiar with the research problem area of his subordinate instructors narrows the range of their duties to the level of an unusual back-up for a cadet subunit commander. But even in this role he far from always succeeds inasmuch as not only science itself in the military educational institution, but also all training and indoctrination work to prepare military specialists, is built more and more persistently today on a strict scientific basis, and he is simply not prepared for this.

When we speak of a sharp increase in the effectiveness of military-technical research in military educational institutions (and such research obviously must contribute above all to a further improvement in weapon systems and methods of their operation and combat employment), then the rights and capabilities alone of the heads of military academies and schools clearly are insufficient here. In my view (and this viewpoint is shared by many military scientists), the need has come to create a more flexible organization of scientific research which will permit more efficient and purposeful involvement of military educational institution scientists for solving urgent complex problems. This organization could take on itself the fulfillment of such functions as the formation of creative collectives, possibly from among representatives of different establishments, encompassing an entire range of problems both in scope and in depth of elaboration; allocation of duties among performers; provision of the necessary equipment and resources for development work; adoption of research results; and moral and economic incentives.

An objection might be raised to this: "Is this really absent now?" I will answer: comprehensive research is being performed, but in posing comprehensive problems the organization which initiates the work is oriented only toward a narrow circle of performers whom it has the right to involve. It turns out that form prevails over content, as the saying goes.

How can the situation be changed? I believe that the initiative in posing comprehensive research projects must rest with the "customer," and that he could be helped by councils of leading scientists in scientific directions. The councils could provide recommendations during the appointment of project heads and formation of a staff of performers. This would help eliminate the separateness and parallelism in scientists' work (by the way, this is typical even of a single military educational institution) and it would considerably reduce the large number of topics; this also means a reduction in the large number of minor topics generated by the present system of accounting, which encourages an increase in the number of independent research efforts.

To give research greater effectiveness it is also probably necessary to expand the rights of scientific managers, meaning their capabilities to use resources allocated for development of a topic; to involve the necessary specialists for a certain time; and to pay bonuses to associates who have distinguished

themselves. To keep these rights with respect to military educational institution instructors from remaining only on paper, the heads of such institutions must be given greater independence to determine the academic load of scientists involved in working out topics of current interest. It stands to reason that we are not speaking of those managers who are merely listed as such and who do not always remember what topics they are "managing," but about the actual scientific managers taking a direct part in research and exercising qualified management of performer collectives. We are speaking of managers who possess not only the talent of a scientist, but also organizing abilities capable of adjusting and maintaining creative ties with USSR Academy of Sciences establishments, with military units and with organizations of industry. The fact is that one simply cannot get by today without such collaboration, which allows combining the scientific potential of military educational institutions with the production capacities of enterprises and the practical experience accumulated in the troops.

All this by no means removes from the agenda the need also to widely develop a scientific-experimental facility for one's own military educational institution which would make it possible to test theoretical conclusions in practice. It stands to reason that it is by no means mandatory (and would cost a pretty penny) to create one's own experimental and computer facility for these purposes in each military educational institution. Let it be in a region where several military educational institutions are situated. The important thing here is that a flexible organization of research be created which provides an opportunity to utilize this facility regardless of its departmental subordination.

And I would like to mention one other aspect of the development of the military educational institution sector of science. Many doctoral and candidate dissertations are prepared within the scope of major comprehensive research. This is generally necessary, but preparation of the dissertations themselves often becomes the principal objective as it were. Many managers do not burden themselves with concern for the development of research and spend an unjustifiably large amount of energy on a formal check of the readiness of dissertations to be defended. And so it turns out that the research plan is one thing and the plan for defense of dissertations is another. Isn't this one of the basic reasons for the situation we are in, which was pointed out in the CPSU Central Committee Political Report to the party congress: over 35 percent of scientific-pedagogic personnel, including around half of the doctors of sciences, are concentrated in the country's universities but they perform no more than 10 percent of the research?

It would appear that the time has come today to state the problem as follows: we need not simply doctors of sciences, but scientists of specific scientific directions, scientific organizers of entire scientific schools on which the solution of military-technical problems depends. Such schools already exist. One of them has been established under the direction of Professor Col N. Yegorov.

In discussing the development of science today one cannot help but think about its future, about preparation of a scientific replacement. "From their first years of training," state congress materials, "students must be drawn into

research and take part in introducing its results to production." It is obvious that we also have to begin preparing the future military scientist with the first school course, and preparing him purposefully and seriously. Then we won't have to engage in "elimination of illiteracy" during post-graduate training and it won't be necessary to involve additional forces and resources for various kinds of final teaching and reteaching of the future scientist.

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CSO: 1801/150

MILITARY HISTORY

LT GEN ZHILIN EXAMINES 'STUDY OF PROBLEMS OF MILITARY HISTORY'

Moscow NOVAYA I NOVEYSHAYA ISTORIYA in Russian No 1, Jan-Feb 86 pp 3-16

[Article by P. A. Zhilin, corresponding member of USSR AN [Academy of Sciences], and A. L. Tinin: "Study of Problems of Military History"; passages rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in source]

[Text] On the threshold of the 27th CPSU Congress the party and country are discussing very important documents presented for consideration of the Congress: the new draft wording of the CPSU Program; "Changes in the CPSU Bylaws"; and "Basic Directions of the USSR's Economic and Social Development." These are documents of enormous political and ideological importance which reflect central issues of the party's general line at the present complex and important segment of history. In its present wording, the 3d CPSU Program is one of "planned and comprehensive improvement of socialism and a further advance of Soviet society toward communism based on an acceleration of the country's social and economic development. It is a program of struggle for peace and social progress."(1)

The new draft wording of the CPSU Program contains a comprehensive description of the results of and prospects for the existence of socialism in our country, the principal tasks in the building of communism, and trends in world social development as a whole. This concerns a further strengthening of the position of real socialism; a growth in its authority and influence; an increase in the role of the popular masses; a growth in opposition to the reactionary, aggressive forces of imperialism; and a strengthening of the potential for peace which unifies countries of socialism, the international working and communist movement, tens of young independent countries, and broad democratic antiwar movements. The world public's attention is drawn to a fundamental problem of modern times raised in the draft CPSU Program: curbing the forces of militarism and war and assuring a firm peace and reliable security of all nations. The basic documents presented for discussion of our party's 27th congress obligate all workers of the Soviet ideological front and representatives of social sciences, including Soviet military historians, to a great deal.

As a science, military history engages in the study of the complex and contradictory social phenomenon of war. It is common knowledge that world history is supersaturated with wars. The history of human civilization

records over 14,500 wars of a varying scale which took over 3.6 billion human lives.

Wars always have accompanied a class society. The higher the development level of social-economic formations has been, the more complicated and confused is the knot of contradictions in the world, the fiercer and more devastating the military clashes, the greater the amount of supplies and numbers of people drawn into their orbit, and the heavier the burden of military expenditures resting on the shoulders of the toiling masses.

The capitalist method of production gave wars an especially devastating and fierce character. It not only created economic preconditions for militarization of the entire tenor of social life, but also predetermined the permanent character of interrelationships among imperialist states and a new type of wars, and it promoted the organization of a system of military alliances and the unleashing of world wars.

Imperialism has become a permanent source of wars and the instigator of opposition and confrontation in resolving world problems. The new draft wording of the CPSU Program states: "Imperialism is the culprit of two world wars which took many tens of millions of lives. It threatens a third world war. Imperialism is putting the achievements of human genius at the service of creating weapons of monstrous devastating force. The politics of imperialist circles ready to sacrifice the destinies of entire nations intensifies the danger that such weapons may be set in motion. In the final account, this threatens a global military conflict, with the result that there would be neither victors nor vanquished, but world civilization might perish."

World reaction has not reconciled itself with defeat and is seeking ways of getting revenge for "battles lost." It is attempting to cancel the results of World War II and turn the wheel of history back. Its principal objective is to break the existing military-strategic balance, destabilize the international situation, change the alinement of forces in the world arena and dictate its will on nations. Contemporary world development advanced the solution to the problem of war and peace to the forward edge of tasks facing mankind.

Imperialism's aggressiveness has intensified in all walks of public life. The arms race is being worked up. It is threatening to spread into outer space and to conventional weapons, which have begun to possess higher destructive properties.

Socialism also is coming under crude attacks on the ideological front. One hostile campaign against socialist countries is replaced by another more refined one. Widescale psychological pressure is being brought to bear on the minds of mankind under the cloak of the "Soviet military threat" and "a sort of militarization of political awareness is underway."⁽²⁾ All this leads to growing mistrust, engenders tension in the world, and complicates a search for ways to normalize the international situation.

The new draft wording of the CPSU Program emphasizes that the CPSU "CONSIDERS PROTECTION OF THE SOCIALIST HOMELAND, STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND

ASSURANCE OF STATE SECURITY TO BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF THE SOVIET STATE OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE. . . . The Communist Party's direction of military organizational development and the Armed Forces is the fundamental basis for strengthening the socialist Motherland's defense. Defense policy, national security policy and Soviet military doctrine, which has a strictly defensive nature and is aimed at protection against outside attack, are developed and implemented under the party's guiding role." Unremitting efforts of the CPSU and Soviet government aimed at preserving and strengthening peace and security, developing cooperation, curbing the arms race, and relaxing tension are finding broad response and support among all peoples of the planet.

The principal lesson which mankind learned from World War II, that we must campaign against war before it begins, assumes special urgency under present-day conditions. "Historical experience teaches that the defense of peace requires united, coordinated and vigorous actions of all peaceloving forces against imperialism's aggressive, adventuristic course. We must raise the vigilance of peoples and safeguard and augment socialism's achievements";(3) strengthen our Motherland's defensive capability, the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces, and the fraternal alliance of peoples and armed forces of Warsaw Pact countries; develop in the growing generation a sense of pride in our country; and strengthen readiness to defend the socialist Motherland.

The demands of modern times advance new and important tasks for Soviet historical scientists. There is a very obvious urgent need to step up efforts to expose the adventuristic politics of aggressive imperialist circles, provide new theoretical generalizations of modern militarism in all its manifestations, and unfold a broad front of research on the history of the armed forces of the principal imperialist states in a close tie-in with their present purpose and status. The wide use of experience of defending the socialist homeland and revolutionary achievements in the patriotic and internationalist indoctrination of the growing generation is a task of no small importance. The new draft wording of the CPSU Program states that "military-patriotic indoctrination and the development of a readiness to defend the socialist homeland, give it one's all and even give one's life if necessary is an important task of the party's ideological indoctrination work."

Implementation of this task needs not only critical comprehension of everything valuable in past military experience, but also (and this is especially important) development of certain conclusions for the future with consideration of the dialectical link between past and present.

By enriching military science with conclusions and generalizations from a specific military past, military history performs an important role in perfecting the theory and practice of defending the socialist homeland. Another function of military history which is of no small importance lies in the sphere of ideological struggle. It participates in forming a scientific outlook, in indoctrinating a generation of Soviet citizens who have not known war on the heroic combat and revolutionary traditions of our people, and in struggling against various kinds of reactionary bourgeois theories of wars.

As a specific branch of military and historical knowledge, military history extends its roots into the distant past. As the nature and content of wars and the techniques and methods of warfare became more complex, there was a process whereby military history separated off as an independent branch of social cognition and new branches of knowledge appeared in it.

The development of Soviet military-historical science is inseparable from the activity of military science centers formed in our country and from that extensive research performed by humanitarian institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Marxism-Leninism of the CPSU Central Committee, chairs of the history of warfare and military art of military academies, the General Staff Military History Directorate, archive establishments, museums, and the editorial offices of the country's publishing houses and journals.

The Soviet people's enormous interest in our Motherland's military past, and especially in events of the Great Patriotic War and World War II, and the increased stream of bourgeois falsifications of USSR military history placed on the day's agenda the task of unifying the efforts of military historians for resolving urgent problems of domestic and foreign military history and improving the effectiveness of research for the theory and practice of communist indoctrination.

It was for this purpose that the USSR Ministry of Defense Institute of Military History was established in 1966. Three principal directions were defined in its activity: a further expansion and improvement in the theoretical level of scientific research in the field of military history; an improvement in the work of military-patriotic indoctrination of workers; and intensification of the struggle against bourgeois falsifiers of the military-historical past.(4)

Establishment of the Institute of Military History attested to the unremitting attention of the CPSU and Soviet government to a study and generalization of the military experience of our Motherland's defense and military-historical research and propaganda work.

The Institute is organizationally subordinate to the USSR Ministry of Defense and the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy. The USSR Academy of Sciences History Department exercises scientific-methods direction over the Institute's work. Experience has shown that this organizational principle corresponds to the greatest extent to the character and content of the scientific problems which the Institute resolves.

The Institute of Military History has been in existence for some 20 years. This is a relatively short period of time, but it is sufficient time to sum up certain results in its research activities.

From the very beginning of the collective's work the Institute focussed efforts on resolving problems involving an elaboration of Marxist-Leninist methodology of military history, study of problems of the Great Patriotic War and World War II, study of the history of military organizations of the Russian proletariat and the experience of its armed struggle, generalization of military-historical experience of revolutionary wars and the partisan

movement, study of the prerevolutionary military-historical past of the Russian people and other peoples of the USSR and of current problems of foreign military history, and elaboration of principal problems of the history of military art.

At the same time, the Institute performs much work of coordinating military-historical research in the country, participating in the military-patriotic indoctrination of workers, and especially the youth, struggling against bourgeois falsifiers of the historical past and exercising scientific control over military-historical and war memoir literature published in the USSR.

The Institute became a center of scientific research and coordination work on military history problems. Contributing to this to a considerable extent was the constant concern by heads of the USSR Ministry of Defense, the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium, and the USSR Academy of Sciences History Department; and the help it is given by institutes and science councils of the History Department, leading scientists in the country working in the area of military-historical problems, and other social organizations and establishments.

Decrees of the Communist Party and Soviet government on cardinal issues of socialist organizational development orient the Institute collective on a study of the most current problems now facing Soviet historical science. Creation of the basic 12-volume work "Istoriya vtoroy mirovoy voyny 1939-1945" [History of World War II, 1939-1945] and the 8-volume publication "Sovetskaya voyennaya entsiklopediya" [Soviet Military Encyclopedia] was an important milestone in its work. Their preparation and publication were accomplished under the direction of main editorial commissions which included prominent state figures, military leaders, political personnel and well-known Soviet scientists.

The 12-volume publication "Istoriya vtoroy mirovoy voyny 1939-1945"(5) analyzed from a dialectical-materialistic standpoint the full complex of political, economic, ideological, military and legal problems of the origin, nature, and features of the course and outcome of the war and its results, lessons, and consequences, and on this basis gave a truly Marxist-Leninist concept of war, its periodization, and an evaluation of turning points in the course of the war. It showed the Soviet Union's decisive contribution toward winning victory over the aggressor and the role of external and internal forces in liberating the European and Asiatic countries from the yoke of German fascism and Japanese militarism.

The Institute of Military History was the prime scientific establishment in this work's creation. Preparation of the publication demanded a unification of efforts of four institutes: the USSR Ministry of Defense Institute of Military History, the Institute of Marxism-Leninism of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of General History, and the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of History of the USSR; and the participation in its creation of a large group of authors--specialists of many branches of sociopolitical knowledge and scientific and publishing personnel of various departments and establishments.

The comprehensive study of World War II history is a major achievement of Soviet historical science. The publication not only performs an important cognitive function; it has an enormous ideological importance and encompasses a broad spectrum of war events and concomitant processes in all walks of public life. The result of the war--a crushing defeat of the shock forces of imperialist reaction--was natural. The victory over fascism and over the forces of aggression and revenge heralded one of the most important turning points in world history.(6)

The work "Istoriya vtoroy mirovoy voyny 1939-1945" received high marks from the Soviet and foreign scientific community. It has been translated and published in five European socialist countries. The Marxist-Leninist concept of World War II and the persuasive conclusions and arguments of Soviet historians are receiving recognition abroad. Those western scientists who earlier repeatedly came out with sharp and sometimes even ill-intentioned criticism of Soviet views on the basic social-political and military problems of the war's history have been forced to heed these conclusions and arguments. Publication of this basic work on the history of World War II provided a powerful impetus to a study of many specialized problems of scientific and practical importance.

The West has been conducting a lengthy slanderous campaign which grossly distorts USSR policy, practice, experience and history. A comprehensive analysis of modern bourgeois historical literature (of the United States, England, the FRG, France, Italy and others) on World War II once again lets us see for ourselves the truth of words uttered by F. Engels one hundred years ago: "The bourgeoisie converts everything into commodities, which means history as well. . . . The work with the best return is one in which falsification of history conforms most with the bourgeoisie's interests."(7) Bourgeois analysts and publicists intentionally distort World War II events and artificially separate them from the problems of modern world development. Plans of the imperialist aggressors are being rehabilitated, assessments of the course of the war are being shifted, political corpses are being galvanized, and myths of the "Soviet military threat and expansion" are being revived to the accompaniment of anticommunism and antisovietism.

Important questions such as the origin of the war, the policy of "appeasement of the aggressor" by western powers, the 1939 Soviet German nonaggression pact, problems of periodization of World War II, the military-political cooperation of states of the anti-Hitler coalition, the Soviet Union's contribution to the defeat of states of Hitler's bloc, and the war's political results and lessons are subjected to falsification above all. A number of works prepared in the Institute are devoted to exposing these and other bourgeois falsifications.(8)

Studies on problems of the Resistance movement in Europe(9) and participation of European and Asiatic countries in World War II(10) were made simultaneously with the preparation of the 12-volume publication. Scientific study of the antifascist struggle in European countries and disclosure of the true contribution of peoples to fascism's defeat also have important practical significance. Studies performed by the Institute persuasively showed that the

liberation struggle of peoples of Central, Southeastern and Northern Europe and of Southeast Asia developed and assumed ever increasing scope under the influence of Soviet Army victories and of that enormous selfless moral and material assistance the Soviet Union gave to the national liberation struggle of the peoples of these countries. The Soviet Union provided international assistance in strict compliance with the principle of nonintervention in the countries' internal affairs or in the social-revolutionary transformations occurring in these countries. All this permitted mutual relations to be properly constructed with the liberated countries and a firm foundation of friendship and cooperation with their peoples to be laid down in postwar times.(11)

Generalization of experience in defense of the socialist homeland held a leading place in the Institute's work in the past period. Great efforts were required to prepare the publication "Sovetskaya voyennaya entsiklopediya" and later the "Voyenny entsiklopedicheskiy slovar" [Military Encyclopedic Dictionary]. Accomplishment of these tasks naturally involved a certain reorganization in the Institute's work and made it necessary to strengthen its corresponding subunits with specialists in the field of contemporary military and technical problems.

The work experience of editors of izdatelstvo "Sovetskaya entsiklopediya" was widely used in creating the "Sovetskaya voyennaya entsiklopediya." A large group of authors was used to prepare the articles: specialists in social-political affairs, contemporary problems of Soviet Armed Forces organizational development and the military art, military history, equipment and armaments, and military geography.

Officers and generals of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, main staffs of branches of the Armed Forces, central directorates of the Ministry of Defense, and military educational institutions, and the country's leading historical scientists took an active part in preparing the military encyclopedic publications. All this permitted publication of the "Sovetskaya voyennaya entsiklopediya" and the "Voyenny entsiklopedicheskiy slovar" in relatively compressed time periods.(12)

Reflecting the present level of knowledge, encyclopedic publications find wide use in scientific and practical work and propaganda activities, and they enjoy great popularity among various categories of readers.

Considering the importance of such work, the Institute, in creative collaboration with izdatelstvo "Sovetskaya entsiklopediya" and with scientific establishments and organizations of the USSR Academy of Sciences and USSR Ministry of Defense, also took an active part in preparing a number of other encyclopedic publications and several scientific references needed in practical work.(13) Particular note should be taken of the publication of the encyclopedia "Velikaya Otechestvennaya voyna" [The Great Patriotic War], which was printed in 500,000 copies and received a high evaluation in the press and among readers. This direction is continuing in the Institute's research activity. It is presently preparing a biographical publication entitled "Geroi Sovetskogo Soyuz" [Heroes of the Soviet Union] in two volumes, in

which it is planned to provide basic biographical data and descriptions of exploits of all persons on whom this high title has been conferred from the moment the award was instituted.

In 1985 the Soviet people and all progressive mankind celebrated the 40th anniversary of victory over German fascism and Japanese militarism. Having suffered the principal burden of the war, the Soviet people broke Hitler's war machine, saved the world from the brown plague, and honorably fulfilled their patriotic and international duty. Events, results and lessons of the Great Patriotic War, on which the course and outcome of an armed clash without analog in world practice depended, retain permanent importance for modern times. CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M. S. Gorbachev noted in the report "Immortal Exploit of the Soviet People" dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in the Great Patriotic War: "The war left such a heritage that its results and lessons continue to exert an influence on the entire course and character of world development and on people's awareness."(14)

Great Patriotic War subject matter bears a multisectorial scientific character. It is grouped about a wide range of social-political, economic and military-technical problems. Such a situation is quite natural: winning victory in the Great Patriotic War demanded a colossal exertion of all vital forces of Soviet society and evoked a mass heroism of Soviet citizens unprecedented in history.

The subject of the Great Patriotic War is an inexhaustible source of inspiration for creative personnel. It has occupied and rightly continues to occupy a significant place in studies of institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences with a humanitarian profile, republic academies of sciences, and the country's higher educational institutions; and it finds wide reflection in literature, the arts, and culture. This is a natural phenomenon. The Soviet people's deep patriotism, devotion to the ideals of peace and freedom, indomitable will to win victory over the enemy, and internationalism which were displayed most vividly during the Great Patriotic War serve as a powerful means of forming precise ideological attitudes in the younger generation of citizens and their readiness to defend socialist achievements.

In fulfilling the tasks assigned it, the Institute of Military History focussed its efforts on research of problems connected with a study of the experience of Soviet military organizational development and organizational development of the Soviet Armed Forces, with evolution of the military art in the war years, and with a demonstration of the role and significance of battles and the most important operations at turning points of the war and the mass heroism of Soviet military personnel.(15)

The cardinal issues of military organizational development and the evolution of the military art also were reflected in a number of other works by the Institute;(16) in published materials of science conferences held under plans of the Ministry of Defense, the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, and the USSR Academy of Sciences;(17) and in series of popular science works and pamphlets published during 1970-1985.

In the early 1980's the Institute concentrated its efforts on a study and generalization of the war's specific combat experience and on preparation of works illuminating the resolution of problems of the military art and having current applied significance. They include the following: "Obobshcheniye opyta podgotovki i vedeniya frontovykh nastupatelnykh operatsiy v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny" [Generalization of the Experience of Preparing and Conducting Front Offensive Operations in the Great Patriotic War], "Operatsii na okruzheniye v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny" [Operations of Encirclement During the Great Patriotic War], "Forsirovaniye vodnykh pregrad v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny" [Assault Crossing of Water Obstacles During the Great Patriotic War], "Vnezapnost v nastupatelnykh operatsiyakh Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny" [Surprise in Great Patriotic War Offensive Operations], "Razvitiye oruzhiya i voyennoy tekhniki: Kratkiy istoricheskiy ocherk" [Evolution of Weapons and Military Equipment: Concise Historical Sketch], "Roylevaya podgotovka sovetskikh Sukhoputnykh voysk: Istoricheskiy ocherk" [Combat Training of Soviet Ground Forces: Historical Sketch], "Strategicheskiye peregruppirovki po opytu Velikov Otechestvennoy voyny" [Strategic Regroupings Based on Great Patriotic War Experience] and certain other studies.

It stands to reason that in our time not everything from wartime experience meets the level of modern demands. The means of warfare have changed radically, and this also entailed changes in methods of troop combat actions. USSR Minister of Defense Mar SU S. L. Sokolov pointed out: "But the approach itself to accomplishing operational-tactical missions, the broad creativeness displayed in the process, the thoroughness and painstakingness with which subordinate commanders and troops worked out all preparatory measures, and the ability to teach the troops specifically what is required in a frontline situation with consideration of the specific combat missions to be executed never can become outdated."

The study of USSR military history continues. The job of creating the generalizing work "Istoriya voyn i voyennogo iskusstva s drevneyshikh vremen do nashikh dney" [A History of Wars and the Military Art From Very Ancient Times Up To Our Days] has unfolded. A set of studies is being performed on problems of the evolution of the military art in local wars of the 1960's through the 1980's and on preparation of a series of works revealing the evolution of the Soviet military art in battles and the most important operations of the Great Patriotic War.

Studies of the military-theoretical heritage of the classics of Marxism-Leninism, which comprises the methodological base of military history, should be singled out from the entire set of problems which have been resolved by the Institute's collective.

It is common knowledge that the basis for creation of truly scientific history was the application of the dialectical-materialistic method to an understanding of social phenomena and a critical analysis of everything achieved by past progressive public thinking. Use of this method by K. Marx, F. Engels and V. I. Lenin not only provides us with models of penetration into the essence of a studied phenomenon, but also arms us with foresight of the possible course of its evolution. This is why theoretical and methodological

questions of military history are constantly the focus of the Institute's research tasks and are one of the bases for raising the theoretical level of works and for the growth in professional expertise of scientific personnel.(18)

Elaboration of theoretical and methodological problems of military history naturally also required a study of issues connected with the development and evolution of Russian and Soviet military-theoretical thought.

Studies performed by the Institute have shown that foremost Russian military-theoretical thought held a leading position in understanding the laws of warfare and in elaborating methods of waging war. Despite certain mistakes and errors, military-theoretical views of the progressively attuned wing of Russian Army officers greatly outstripped the official views of the czarist regime in matters of organizational development of the Army and Navy, wargaming and the conduct of military actions.(19)

Soviet military theory was born of needs to defend the Great October's achievements. Not everything could be adopted from past experience, but it was impossible to get by without generalization of such experience and without comprehension of new phenomena. The development and evolution of Soviet military thought took place in the atmosphere of the transition period from capitalism to socialism. In prewar times, of course, not all issues were resolved with the necessary degree of depth, but fundamental problems of the Armed Forces organizational development and the country's preparation for coming ordeals, and fundamental issues of the military art were sufficiently elaborated. Great Patriotic War events confirmed the correctness of many prewar views.

Our people's history is full of heroic pages of the struggle against foreign invaders. The vast expanses of Russia with her rich natural resources and hard-working people were for many centuries an object of seizure and plunder. All this forced the Russian people and other peoples inhabiting Russia to take up arms and offer a decisive rebuff to anyone who invaded our state with the sword. The struggle against invaders promoted the development of the Russian state and unification of peoples of the Ukraine, Belorussia, Moldavia, the Baltic, the Caucasus, the Transcaucasus, Kazakhstan and Central Asia with the Russian people. The latter also provided fraternal assistance to the peoples of Southeastern Europe.

The heroic pages of the annals of our people's struggle against foreign invaders always generate unremitting interest and a feeling of pride for their Motherland in Soviet citizens. The names of great ancestors covered the colors of Soviet troops on Great Patriotic War battlefields and the heroic exploits of commanders, political officers and Red Army men during the Civil War and served as one of the sources of mass heroism of Soviet military personnel. A series of Institute works is devoted to a study of our people's heroic annals.(20)

From the very beginning of its work the Institute has been linked with fraternal military-historical establishments of socialist countries by the bonds of scientific cooperation. Such bonds develop both along the line of

joint studies and preparation of military-historical works on their basis, and along the line of an exchange of work experience and joint discussion of tasks and scientific problems demanding a coordinated solution.

Especially close creative ties were established with military historians of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Cuba, Mongolia, Romania, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia for studying problems of creating and strengthening the combat alliance of fraternal peoples and armies of socialist countries. Joint efforts have resulted in the preparation of a number of monographs and document collections which received a high evaluation from the reading audience of these countries.(21)

In recent years the bilateral form of scientific ties with military-historical establishments of socialist countries has been enriched by multilateral forms of joint work. During 1975-1984 military historians of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the USSR and the CSSR under the direction of the International Editorial Board prepared and published the work "Vtoraya mirovaya voyna: Kratkaya istoriya" [World War II: Concise History],(22) which received prizes from academies of sciences of socialist countries for outstanding achievements in the area of Marxist-Leninist social sciences.

Joint work continues with military historians of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the CSSR to create the works "Gosudarstva NATO i voyennyye konflikty" [NATO States and Military Conflicts], "Boyevoye sodruzhestvo, rozhdennoye Oktyabrem" [Combat Cooperation Born of October], "Fashizm i voyna: istoriya i sovremennost" [Fascism and War: History and Modern Times], "Traditsii i razvitiye boyevogo sodruzhestva mezhdru Sovetskimi Vooruzhennymi Silami i NNA GDR" [Traditions and Evolution of Combat Cooperation Between the Soviet Armed Forces and the GDR Natsionale Volksarmee], and "Na strazhe mira i sotsializma: boyevoy soyuz Vooruzhennykh Sil SSSR i Bolgarskoy Narodnoy armii 1944-1984 gg." [Guarding Peace and Socialism: Combat Alliance of the USSR Armed Forces and the Bulgarian People's Army During 1944-1984]. A number of previously published joint scientific studies are being republished.

Works on the history of combat organizations of the Russian proletariat and experience of their armed struggle, the national liberation struggle of peoples of Africa and Asia, and current problems of foreign military art have been prepared and published.(23)

I would like to dwell in particular on an important sector of the Institute's work connected with the preparation of documentary publications. The Soviet archives are an invaluable storehouse of national memory, a font of knowledge on various issues of military history. Introduction of new documents into scientific circulation permits taking a new look at the development of war events and sometimes even changing a traditionally existing view on the character and essence of a particular war phenomenon, and the very language of documents bears an incomparably greater information flow.

The Institute has formed close creative ties with archive establishments of Glavarkhiv SSSR [USSR Main Archives Administration], the USSR Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other departments. Together with the archives, the Institute has prepared several documentary publications which, as an analysis indicates, have firmly entered scientific circulation and the propaganda of the Soviet people's heroics through the media of movies and television.(24)

The practice of a joint effort with archives to prepare documentary works, the experience of their publication and an evaluation of the influence of documentary publications on the development of military history also permit drawing certain conclusions. The principal one is that publication of series of document collections prepared for the purpose of covering major problems or events produce the greatest effect and results. A need has matured to prepare a series of document collections covering the full scope of the course of military actions at Great Patriotic War fronts. This stems from the fact that a further study of problems of armed warfare demands putting new archive documents in circulation. The need for such publications also is dictated by considerations of a practical nature. There is no question that resolution of this problem subsequently may become one of the directions of the Institute's scientific studies.

Coordination of studies in the military history area accounts for a considerable portion of the Institute's work. It takes in all military-historical elaborations conducted in the country's research establishments, higher educational institutions and public organizations. The Science Council for Coordination of Military History Studies--established under the Institute in 1968 with a make-up including highly qualified specialists of the Ministry of Defense, institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences History Department and republic academies of sciences, chairs of military academies, history faculties of the country's leading universities and central publishing houses--performs extensive scientific-methods and consultation work to raise the level of research organization and quality.

Annual plenary sessions of the Council and coordination conferences examine the status and course of scientific research in the country and mutually coordinate plans for research on military history subjects. Great emphasis in the Council's work is placed on developing research subjects for the near term of 5-10 years and on analyzing results achieved in resolving particular problems of military history.

The forming of new subject matter is done through collective efforts based on demands of the party and Soviet government for further strengthening our country's defensive ability and perfecting ideological and political indoctrination work, and with regard for the needs of an evolution of Soviet military theory and practice. Long-term research subjects are sent in the form of collections to interested organizations, establishments, science councils and specialized councils. The recommended research subjects later are included in coordination plans. All this permits focussing the attention of scientific personnel and higher school instructors on resolving current problems of military history, avoiding a dissipation of efforts and precluding duplication and parallelism in research to a considerable extent.

The following figures can give an idea of the scale of the Science Council's coordination activity: coordination ties have been established and are being maintained with 460 of the country's scientific establishments and organizations; the subjects of over 1,900 scientific works have been examined and approved. The Institute of Military History has exercised scientific supervision over the publication of more than 570 war memoirs, military history works and works of historical fiction, and has evaluated 300 dissertations completed in the country.

The Institute is a permanent member of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (International Commission of Military History), the International Committee of the History of World War II and the International Sociological Association and takes an active part in the work of bilateral commissions of historians of the USSR and fraternal socialist countries. Conferences of the heads of the Warsaw Pact countries' military history establishments have become a permanent form of scientific collaboration in recent years.

Participation in the work of international scientific organizations provides productive results. It not only permits presenting Soviet scientists' views of historical events, but also most fully evaluating the contribution of the Marxist-Leninist direction to the development of world history and correctly choosing long-term reference points. During its existence the Institute has been a participant of four international congresses of historical sciences (13th, 14th, 15th and 16th). Its associates have given reports and scientific announcements on various problems of military history at more than 100 international science conferences, symposia and colloquia.

Soviet military historians took an active part in a discussion of one of the principal topics at the 16th International Congress of Historical Sciences (Stuttgart, August 1985): "Resistance to Fascism, National Socialism, and Japanese Militarism up to 1945." Scientists of the German Democratic Republic, People's Republic of China, Polish People's Republic, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Great Britain and other countries discussed the basic report "Content and Forms of the Nationwide Struggle on Occupied Soviet Territory During the Great Patriotic War." Over 50 reports and scientific announcements were heard.

A colloquium of the International Commission of Military History was held within the scope of the Congress on the topic "Most Important Problems of World War I History"; here Soviet military historians gave reports entitled "World War I and the Revolution in Russia" and "The Russian Army in World War I and Its Influence on Society." The topic "The Economy in World War II" was examined at the Congress within the scope of the International Committee on the History of World War II. Soviet military scientists gave reports entitled "USSR Economic Strategy in World War II," "Production of Arms and Military Equipment in the USSR During the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945" and "Reconstruction of the USSR's National Economy Destroyed by the Fascist German Invaders in the War Years."

The Institute periodically takes part in preparing and publishing the INTERNATIONAL MILITARY HISTORY JOURNAL.(25) According to foreign scientists who are in the managing centers of international science organizations, publication of journal issues prepared by Soviet military historians generates a positive response among the scientific community of western countries.

Scientific contacts became especially active during preparations for celebrating the 40th anniversary of victory over fascism. At the invitation of a number of international organizations, the Institute's scientists took part in conferences and colloquia and gave lectures and reports in socialist countries and in France, Egypt, the Republic of Cyprus, Syria, Switzerland and Sweden. The foreign mass media showed an interest in covering Great Patriotic War events. The Institute prepared and took part in holding ten press conferences for the corps of journalists accredited in Moscow on the topic "Great Battles and Operations in the Great Patriotic War: Their Role and Significance in the Wehrmacht's Defeat." Talks and interviews were held on the world historic importance of the victory and its influence on the world's postwar development with representatives of newspapers, journals, and television and radio companies of a number of European countries.

It is hardly possible in one report to cover all aspects of the Institute's work with sufficient completeness. We will give only general indicators of its work during 1966-1985. During this period the Institute of Military History prepared and published over 210 scientific works having a volume of 6,450 quires and a printing of 11,750,000 copies. Forty-eight works were translated into foreign languages and republished in foreign countries and 12 works were prepared through joint efforts with military historians of fraternal socialist countries. There were 58 scientific and practical science conferences prepared and held, over 6,200 lectures and reports were given to civilian and military audiences, and 340 foreign delegations were received under plans of the USSR Ministry of Defense, the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy and the USSR Academy of Sciences. The Institute prepared 37 doctors and 126 candidates of historical sciences in the "military history" specialty. Many of them now work productively in institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences and republic academies of sciences, and in the country's higher educational institutions.

All the while the Institute has been engaged in scientific consultation on works of historical fiction by Soviet writers (A. Chakovskiy's "Blockade," I. Stadnyuk's "War," V. Karpov's "The General," Ye. Dolmatovskiy's "Green Drama" and others) and has been participating in creation of the 12-volume anthology of fictional literature on the Great Patriotic War entitled "Venok Slavy" [Wreath of Glory].

The Institute's scientists took part in creating the multipart historical documentary movies "The Great Patriotic" (20 parts) and "Strategy of Victory" (15 parts).

The Institute performs extensive work in scientific and methodological consultation with creative organizations making the majestic "Victory" monument on Mt. Poklonnaya (city of Moscow) and preparing expositions of its museum, and in giving help to veterans and pathfinders in clarifying war events.

The Institute of Military History was awarded the Order of Red Star for services in the field of military historical science by ukase of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium of 6 May 1983, and many associates have been awarded USSR orders and medals.

In heading for the 27th CPSU Congress, Soviet military historians are bending every effort to worthily greet the forum of Soviet party members and to ensure that the results of their work contribute to a further strengthening of our Motherland's defensive ability, an increase in the combat potential of the Soviet Armed Forces, and the development of Soviet historical science.

FOOTNOTES

1. PRAVDA, 26 October 1985.

2. Ibid.

3. "CPSU Central Committee Decree 'Fortieth Anniversary of the Soviet People's Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945'," KOMMUNIST, No 9, 1984, pp 37-38.

4. "KPSS o Vooruzhennykh Silakh Sovetskogo Soyuza: Dokumenty, 1917-1966" [The CPSU on the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union: Documents, 1917-1966], Moscow, 1969, p 411.

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6. For details see Zhilin, P. A., "Scientific Results and Experience of Elaborating a Work on the History of World War II," VOPROSY ISTORII, No 9, 1985, pp 3-19.

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CSO: 1801/141

AFGHANISTAN

MOSCOW GIVES FURTHER DETAILS OF AFGHAN ARMY VICTORY

LD020704 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] Tass correspondents report from Kabul: As a result of a large-scale operation by the Afghan Army, a dushman lair was completely destroyed in the inaccessible region of Zhawar in the northwest of Afghanistan. There have already been reports about this.

Now, with the passing of several days after the ending of the battles, many facts have become known bearing witness to the true role of this bandit citadel and the significance which the ringleaders and the Western patrons of the counterrevolution ascribed to the Zhawar base. The strategic staff was located there which guided the specific leadership of the actions of the bands in Paktia, Paktika, Kabul, and other provinces of eastern and central Afghanistan, as was a radio center.

A whole complex: forty nine stores of arms, ammunition, clothes and food, were located in the immediate vicinity of Zhawar, the (?Elmarzai) staging post, through which the supply of the bands was effected. The creation of this complex was no accident. It was in pursuit of far-reaching aims; the formation, in the final analysis of a kind of Islamic government of Afghanistan.

As a result of the operation to liquidate the Zhawar base, 252 fortified weapons positions were destroyed, 6,000 anti-tank and 12,000 anti-personnel mines were neutralized and liquidated, hundreds of missiles and missile-launching units, thousands of artillery and jet-propelled shells, and millions of cartridges for submachine guns, rifles and machine guns were seized.

The losses of the dushmans amounted to more than 2,000 killed, and the number of wounded, according to unconfirmed figures, almost doubles this figure. Almost the entire bandit leadership of this tendency has been put out of action.

The population warmly welcomed the soldiers who destroyed the dushman nest.

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CSO: 1801/170

AFGHANISTAN

WORK AT KABUL MILITARY HOSPITAL DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Feb 86 p 4

[Article by Maj O. Bedula: "The Return of Sight: With Military Medical Personnel"]

[Text] Lt Col Med Serv Mikhail Dronov remembered that first day at the new station all his life. When he was reporting his arrival to the hospital chief, dushman mortar rounds were bursting quite nearby next to the medical building. He mentally noted that there was neither panic nor fuss. Everything was militarily precise. Not only the officer physicians but also the rather young nurses and female orderlies continued their humane work of bandaging, treating and caring for patients... It was as if those explosions had not occurred.

That evening the craters, which smelled of TNT, were filled with dirt and planted with flowers.

Dronov's first days of work at the hospital began with a supplement to his medical vocabulary. Such concepts as "wounded," "blown up on a mine" and "combat injury" now became more than abstract, as they were before in classes...

Here there were no so-called planned operations where the progress of each one was carefully adjusted and possible complications were provided for. Everyone who enters the eye department of the Kabul Military Hospital usually needs an emergency operation. Here military physician Dronov came to know the insidiousness of ball [sharikovaya], delayed-action and plastic mines of Italian, American and West German manufacture.

A gun fragment [ognestrelno-oskolochnoye] eye wound. Not long ago such a diagnosis left no chance for success, but now...

Dronov twisted the adjustment knobs and pressed to the microscope eyepiece. Using microsurgical instruments, he had to remove numerous fragments from Pvt Viktor Mikov's eye; the fragments were such that they were not subject to a magnet's effect. Then he had to remove a damaged cornea and implant an

artificial crystalline lens. Here a surgeon does not simply need hand movements; he needs micromovements. It now depended on Dronov whether or not the eye would see again at some time. He touched the eye with a very fine scalpel.

Then the operation was over. Several days later when the bandages were removed, Dronov asked his patient:

"Well, Vitya, how are things?"

That person closed his healthy left eye tightly and cautiously opened the right eye. He looked at the doctor and smiled for the first time in recent times:

"I see you, Mikhail Mikhaylovich. I see you!"

Seemingly commonplace words, but if a person has been doomed to blindness these words already assume a different meaning.

Here in the land of Afghanistan, where his abilities and professional expertise were most clearly revealed, Dronov more than once pondered what he would be now had it not been for that incident of many years ago...

Standing on the upper deck, the boy observed the blades of the propelling wheel cut the water. The "Melnikov-Pecherskiy" moved smoothly over the ripples of the Volga. The lad didn't notice right away that an elderly woman had stopped next to him.

"Do you wish to become a sailor?" she asked.

"No, a military person like Papa... He commanded one-and-a-half tonners in the war..."

It was difficult to converse because of the noise of the water and they moved to the bow. Then Misha Dronov learned of the surprising career of Anna Semenovna Aronova. In 1926 she was one of a few women who completed the Military Medical Academy. She took part in three wars.

The trip along the Volga lasted three weeks. When they arrived in Perm, Misha announced to his parents that he would be a physician, and definitely a military physician.

That is what happened. After school Mikhail entered the Military Medical Academy imeni S. M. Kirov. Then came duty in the Navy as an ophthalmologist. The young specialist performed interesting experiments and defended a candidate's dissertation. He performed many operations, but it was the first time he had encountered such a volume of work as in the Kabul Hospital.

Operations, operations... And each one had to answer one question: Would the person see? Once he was working with operating room nurse Polina Sklyar all night until seven in the morning. Then they gave him help as he had a heart attack [serdtse prikhvatilo]. But the doctor couldn't even stand two days of

"total rest": he gave advice and assisted Maj Med Serv A. Kulyagin. As secretary of the party organization of surgical departments he prepared for holding the next party buro session. That same day he wrote a report to Leningrad for the Academy's chair of eye diseases.

When patients came into the admissions department, Dronov was asked delicately:

"Mikhail Mikhaylovich, it is a difficult case and we don't know what to do..."

They began the operation without delay. At that time he removed a cloudy lens and implanted special lenses in its place. He restored the person's vision. He was again preparing for an operation several hours later. This time Dronov had to replace a damaged cornea with a healthy one taken from a donor.

On sultry evenings when others had a breather he would be poring over reports for the chair. He described in detail the most difficult cases of combat injuries and methods of treating them. He would prepare for upcoming operations which at times had no analog in Soviet eye microsurgery and would ask advice of his respected teacher Maj Gen Med Serv V. Volkov.

Soon a center for study and treatment of combat injury to organs of vision was established at the hospital. With the support of the UkSSR Academy of Sciences, Dronov began practical use of a so-called corneal tissue bank. The military physician successfully used a frozen cornea for transplantation.

Dronov no longer is satisfied with previous results. He is in a constant search and conducts bold experiments. There are operations daily. Then a new step forward: the retina of Pvt Koroban's eye was smoothed [razglazhena] with the help of special magnetic balls. Special drops were created and with their help Capt Shokhin and Pvt Vasin regained their sight.

Pvt I. Iskanderov also believed that he would again have the good fortune of rejoicing over the sun, a rainbow and flowers. He departed for Tashkent several days after the operation and soon a letter arrived from him. "Doctor! Thank you for returning my vision."

There are so many such letters. They now go to Leningrad, to the Academy's eye disease clinic, to which Dronov recently returned.

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CSO: 1801/150

AFGHANISTAN

OFFICER IN DRA WRITES ON DISCIPLINE THEME

PM281050 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 86 Second Edition p 2

[Reader's letter from Guards Senior Lieutenant A. Punko of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan under the rubric "Komsomol Life: Readers Continue the Conversation": "In Step with Courage" -- first two paragraphs are : KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published on 16 March the article "Feats Begin with Discipline" by Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Army General D. Lelyushenko. It dealt with the importance of military discipline under combat conditions and its role as regards the cohesion of servicemen's collectives and the successful solution of tasks set by commanders.

Readers' letters are arriving at the editorial office. We publish one of them.

I read with keen interest the article "Feats Begin with Discipline" by Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Army Gen D. Lelyushenko. I was particularly touched by the passage describing the selfless actions by Soviet servicemen at the crossing of the Oder. Once again I thought: The experience of the Great Patriotic War is one of our priceless assets.

The author is right, it is impossible to overestimate the role of discipline in daily army life, and even more so under harsh combat conditions. I want to emphasize in my letter that both experienced and young officers in our paratroop unit are unanimous: Discipline is the first step along the path to victory in modern combat. Let me cite an example.

A company commanded by Guards Sr Lt V. Dashevskiy was supporting operations by Afghan servicemen. A squad including the company commander was ambushed in the course of performing its task. Bandits opened a hail of fire and started an outflanking movement. Sr Lt V. Dashevskiy instantaneously assessed the situation. He ordered a group of servicemen headed by Guards Ensign V. Tarankin to take up a suitable position and destroy the enemy's machine guns. This was the only correct decision.

That battle was quickly over. It was, however, only thanks to the fact that all of the commander's orders were executed instantaneously and precisely that the squad not only repulsed the dushman attack but also dealt them a powerful blow.

Figurately speaking, firm discipline marched in step with skill and courage in that battle. It was discipline that seemed to cement the paratroopers' ranks and augment their strength at the difficult time.

Even an isolated instance of indiscipline and underestimation of the demands of the Regulations could result in losses under combat conditions. This is what the commander teaches us, and this is the subject of frequent exacting discussions in our Komsomol collective. At times we even discuss specific instances. Here is a fact. A squad commanded by Guards Sr Lt A. Fidiyev was operating while detached from the subunit's main force. This, of course, imposed particular responsibility on the officer. However, he was careless in taking precautionary measures. In other words, he oversimplified matters and displayed indiscipline. The squad settled down for the night in a deserted village. The night watch was set without taking account of the circumstances. The officer paid no attention to the fact that the village was surrounded by ravines on two sides. Dushmans surrounded the village under cover of darkness. The paratroopers had to fight under adverse circumstances. Everything turned out well only thanks to emergency measures being taken by the senior official in charge. The outcome could have been different. A severe discussion took place in our collective soon afterwards.

How can one fail to recall the words by the famous Russian military leader A. Suvorov: "Discipline is the mother of victory."

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CSO: 1801/170

AFGHANISTAN

YOUTH PAPER PUBLISHES FEATURE ON SERVICEMEN IN DRA

PM010910 [Editorial Report]

[Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 April 1986 front-pages in a box and under the headline "Hello, Son, I am Proud of You!" a 6-inch by 7-inch photograph showing a serviceman being embraced by an elderly woman, accompanied by the following unattributed caption: "Hello, Yakub! Hello, son! Welcome back! I am proud of you!" It was with these words that Yakub Abdurakhmanov was greeted by his mother Mekhri-apa at Tashkent Airport.

"Yakub is a senior sergeant. A soldier-internationalist. He and his fellow-servicemen and contemporaries have performed with honor their international duty in Afghanistan. Now the young soldiers-internationalists have returned to the motherland, they are back home.

"Soldiers-internationalists...Our young contemporaries, who are rightfully going down in history together with Special Duties Section servicemen, shock workers, Stakhanovites, those who opened up the virgin lands, front-line soldiers, and Komsomol construction projects volunteers.

"Thank you, lads, for your staunchness and courage, for your true loyalty and combat valor. Our entire country and the Lenin Komsomol are proud of you, heirs to your forefathers' glory." The reader is referred to page 4 of the newspaper, three-fourths of which are devoted to a feature entitled "Hello, Lads, We are Proud of You!" and consisting of a 2,300-word reportage by special correspondents M. Alimov and V. Kiselev, with photographs by special correspondent Yu. Feklistov, and boxed brief extracts from letters sent to servicemen in the DRA via the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial office.

The Alimov-Kiselev reportage is datelined Tashkent and begins by describing the atmosphere at the Abdurakhmanov household when it was learned that their son Yakub was due to return home from Afghanistan. The authors then write about the atmosphere at Tashkent Airport just before the arrival of the "large transport aircraft," following this with descriptions of the first greetings of returning servicemen, and the parting of fellow-soldiers.

The authors go on: "Sometimes you hear people complain: No, youngsters are not what they used to be. They are flippant, do not dress properly, and the way they dance... How can you rely on them? Yes, you can rely on young people like Yakub Abdurakhmanov and his comrades. They have proved this. In action.

"Those who came to help the Afghan people were quite young people. And, having encountered rampant evil, they became acutely aware of other people's suffering and pain. Blown-up schools, destroyed houses, murdered aktiv members and civilians -- they came face to face with all this. 'On one occasion our convoy of BMP mechanized infantry combat vehicles was on the road in Zabol Province. Suddenly, grenade-launcher shots, explosions, and the chatter of automatic weapons were heard from the Kabul-Qandahar highway. We turned in that direction. We did not make it in time, though. We saw a bus and a truck, burned and lying upside-down. Next to them, by the wheels, lay two dead children, a woman with her eyes gouged, and the bodies of elderly people. Evidently a stall-holder and his neighbors had been transporting goods.'

"Terms like class struggle, learned by them only from textbooks, acquire completely real features. They understood with particular urgency that here there can be no middle ground. Either -- or. These are the only alternatives. Words like 'revolution,' 'courage,' and 'friendship' echo with new-minted freshness...

"We approached a broad-shouldered young man wearing a blue beret and the Order of the Red Star on his battle dress. Guards Private Paratrooper Oleg Yaskovets. 'Could I answer your questions together with my friends?', he asked. 'Somehow we have gotten used to it, everywhere together.' We introduced ourselves to another two remarkable young men: Sergeant Oleg Skripka and Private Petr Dzhigadlo. Silver medals shone on their chests. Oleg's was 'For Valor,' Petr's -- 'For Combat Merit.' All three were recommended for other combat awards. 'They did not manage to present them back in the unit. Never mind, they will find us at home.

"On many occasions they found themselves in very complex situations. But their friendship only grew stronger.

"Once, high up in the mountains, they joined in battle. It was evening, about 7 o'clock. But darkness was already falling thick around them, and stars were glimmering low in the sky. Their group was holding the hill. There were dushmans all around. 'Save your bullets,' Lieutenant Volodya Kovtun ordered. He need not have spoken. His lads were all experienced, tested. They understood: They had to hold out until morning, until daylight, come what may. Then -- help would arrive.

"And they did hold out. Even though the dushmans, driven wild by their failure and stupefied by narcotics, threw themselves headlong into the attack. That was when grenades were used. And the enemies were forced back, time and again.

"Yaskovets, Skripka, and Dzhigadlo were stretched out one next to the other, shoulder to shoulder, behind a hastily constructed stone cover like a barricade. 'Cover,' they would say in turn. And each one of them would be certain that he would be protected by two automatic weapons while he was reloading his magazine. Protected as reliably as if he were doing it himself.

"Life is difficult without mutual assistance. In the army it is twice as difficult. In Afghanistan, altogether impossible. The lads who have graduated from the Afghanistan school are clearly aware of this. This is probably why today they participate increasingly actively in establishing councils and clubs of DRA servicemen transferred to the reserve attached to Komsomol committees. Not to share reminiscences. But so as not to lose what they have learned and accumulated. And to hand it down to the youngsters, to those who still have to join the ranks.

"'I started looking at life in a completely different fashion in Afghanistan,' Hospital Nurse Natasha Martsenyuk said.

"She saw pain and suffering. But she also saw unusual spiritual strength and staunchness. She learned not to be afraid of shell or mine explosions. Herself a frail girl, she learned to support and help others. She donated her blood on several occasions.

"'While in Afghanistan I learned that love is the main thing in life. That was where I met Sasha. I found happiness.'

"Man remains man for as long as he has not lost the ability to love.

"We also spoke about love with Guards Sergeant Saydulla Karshiyev. Whenever circumstances permitted, he received almost every day letters written in a girl's precise handwriting. Even the wedding day has been set -- 9 May. This day will be the happiest of all.

"Saydulla has invited all his comrades to visit him in the city of Gulistan, on the Syrdarya River. He would be glad if all of them were to visit him right now. But no, the lads say, first we must go home. Afterward...

"Even his best friend Vasya Anokhin gave him the same answer, no matter how hard he tried to persuade him. It was with no one else but Vasya that Saydulla marched all over Afghanistan's roads. That is a sapper's lot -- to march along the road even in the age of mechanization. So as to prevent any possible damage to the equipment itself.

"It had to be done and they, ordinary Soviet lads, proved that they were ready to accomplish feats.

"Valera Kuzmenko died providing cover for his comrades.

"'That was a very hard battle,' deputy squad commander Yura Zamotin told us, clenching his fists. 'The group was assigned a mission. Under the circumstances we were unable to march fast. And the bandits were trying to cut us off from the main body of troops. No one ordered Valera Kuzmenko. I looked back -- he was stretched out on the ground. I rushed toward him. "On your way," he waved. "I will hold the ghosts back." "No," I shouted, "Valerka, I will stay with you." And he: "Carry on the mission."

"'...It only took a few minutes. We were already running back to him. Suddenly everything went quiet, his automatic weapon was silent... Valerka died in my hands. His last word was "Mama." "'We returned to the unit, and the mailman was distributing mail. "Kuzmenko," he shouted. "Letter for you," he shouted again. At that point I stood up and took the envelope. Valerka was more than a brother to me. I treat his mother, Olga Nikolayevna, like my own mother. I will see my relatives and will then definitely travel to see her, in the Chernigov Oblast village of Galitsa.'

"Yes, it is difficult to write about this. But it is even more difficult to keep silent about it. There is such a word as duty. And we are all eternally indebted to those who remained loyal to it until the end.

"Yes, our lads have to undergo very serious trials. They help the fraternal Afghan people to repulse external aggression. Because the gains of the April revolution are threatened by direct intervention. But the lads, in whose honor welcoming speeches echoed above the airport and the brass band played, spoke not just about battles.

"We recall: Soviet servicemen helped to repair the power station on the bank of a small river in an Afghan town. A Palace of Youth is being erected now in another town, whose foundation stones were laid by Afghan and Soviet servicemen. The lads show special concern for children. Many Afghan boys and girls received simple gifts on the occasion of the Nowruz Holiday of Spring. They were made by the soldiers-internationalists in their spare time... No, it is not only with weapons in hand that the Soviet boys help the Afghan people to build a new life. They plow the land together with the peasants, build new homes to replace the ones that have been burned down or blown up by the infuriated enemies, and lay gardens and parks...

"It cannot be otherwise... After all, they are called internationalists.

"'...Well, have a happy journey home,' we told the lads after the meeting.

"And they smiled in reply: "'We are already home!'" The extracts from readers' letters, running to a total of 500 words, include one from N. Osipov, from Angarsk, Irkutsk Oblast, who says: "I am 27 years old. I would very much like to make my modest contribution to the Afghan people's struggle for freedom." The five photographs in the feature consist of

an uncaptioned 7-inch by 5-inch photograph showing two smiling servicemen, and four 2-inch by 2-inch photographs as follows: One showing a member of a military brass band, captioned "This day will be long remembered -- smiles, flowers, and festive marching music;" the second one showing two seated servicemen, captioned "Friends exchanging addresses;" the third showing a close-up of a smiling serviceman's face, captioned "Guards Private Oleg Yaskovets;" and the fourth showing a girl seated next to a serviceman, captioned "Nurse Natasha Martsenyuk and Guards Sr Sgt Oleg Zamotin."

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